Cannock & Rugeley
CHRONICLE

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WOODY'S BAR IN SUDDEN CLOSURE

BY RICHARD GUTTRIDGE

A MUCH-LOVED music bar which put on gigs featuring bands from across the region has closed suddenly.

Woody's Music Bar, in Market Street, Hednesford, has shut its doors despite having advertised events until the end of March.

It was known locally as one of the best live music venues in the area and attracted performers from throughout the region.

Weekly gigs proved hugely popular, with the venue among the best known in Hednesford.

Events had been booked at the bar until the end of next month, according to the venue's website. The bar had been run by Andy 'Woody' Wood and his wife Tracie.

Midland band Dance Floor Deluxe were due to play at Woody's tomorrow (Friday) but had to hastily make other arrangements when they found out the premises shut. Pete, from the band, said: "I think it has probably been struggling for a while and couldn't carry on any longer. Woody phoned out the blue to tell me.

"It is not easy running a live music venue, and he has decided to call time on it.

Disappointed

"We were due to be up there this Friday and had got a lot of people coming but we have managed to find another venue."

Would-be customers turned up on Saturday night expecting live music, only to find the doors shut and the lights off.

"We were really disappointed. A few people turned up and were surprised the doors were shut," one said.

"It's a good venue, I hope it reopens soon."

Woody's, which holds more than 200 people, opened in 2011 after the building was extensively refurbished.

It has hosted hundreds of music acts over the years, including some of the finest tribute acts.

When it was put up for sale two years ago, the bar was described as a 'an iconic venue locally, with a reputation for attracting some of the best live performers the area has to offer'.

A large sign on the front of the building now says it is available for lease. The Joshua Tree Motel at the rear, which is also owned by the Woods, is still open and takings bookings.

Hednesford councillor Stuart Crabtree said he was disappointed by the bar's closure.

He said: "I heard it had closed, and it is a sad loss for the area and live music. It is very popular. I do hope somebody will take it on and hopefully it can come back."

FIRST CANNOCK, THEN THE OSCARS FOR DIRECTOR

Oscar-nominated director Chris Overton returns to his hometown cinema with actress Rachel Shenton for a screening of The Silent Child

'I'M still having to pinch myself. I went out to the Oscars lunch and met Steven Spielberg and saw Meryl Streep.'

The words of Cannock director Chris Overton who flew out to the US this week ahead of the Academy Awards – but not before attending a special screening of his Oscar-nominated short film in his hometown cinema.

The 28-year-old, from Heath Hayes, attended a sold-out showing of The Silent Child at Cannock's Electric Palace Picture House with fiancée, the former Hollyoaks actress Rachel Shenton who wrote and stars in the film. She and ex-Kingsmead School student Chris also hosted a question and answer session.

He said: "The support was amazing, I got a standing ovation. I's where my film-making all started and it was lovely to see some familiar faces. It was very special. I used to go to that cinema as a kid and I never expected to go back for a showing of my own film, especially an Oscar-nominated one."

The 20-minute film focuses on a young deaf girl who is born into a middle-class family and struggles with communication until she meets a caring social worker. It is poignant for Rachel whose father went deaf overnight.

The Silent Child is in the live action short category on March 4.

Chris first picked up a video camera aged 13. He said: "There wasn't much to do in Cannock apart from cause trouble and play football and I wanted to make films."

ROADS

£5m set aside for repairing potholes

HIGHWAYS bosses in Staffordshire will spend £5 million tackling potholes throughout the county in the year ahead.

The county council spent £5 million in 2017-18 which chiefs said helped repair 35,000 potholes – compared with 20,000 in a typical year.

Now, county council bosses have backed plans to spend the same amount in 2018-19 to continue to tackle the problem.

The cash has been revealed as part of the authority's latest budget, which will see council tax rise by 5.95 per cent.

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LEISURE

Museum festival will be booze-free

AN alcohol-free festival for young people is being held at the Museum of Cannock Chase next month.

Gen-i Festival will run from midday to 6pm at the museum in Valley Road, Hednesford, on March 24.

There will be music from Sox, Izzie Gibbs, Ivory Wave and Sugarthief as well as gaming, skateboarding, graffiti art and fairground rides.

Admission to the event will be free.

TRANSPORT

Petition launched to save Sunday buses

A PETITION has been set up to save Sunday bus services in Cannock and Stafford that are being axed after funding was cut.

Arriva is cutting bus services that run from its Delta Way depot in Cannock on Sundays from April 1 because subsidies from Staffordshire County Council have been axed. The petition is on change.org

● Full report – Page 5

INSIDE

LOOK INSIDE WHITE HOUSE

PAGE 7

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Medics 'let my son die' over unpaid bill

Adrian King died on holiday

"I HOPE that with the publicity and the coroner's findings we can stop this happening again" – a mother has spoken of her heartbreak following an inquest into her son's death in Egypt.

Elaine Huxley's son Adrian King, originally from Stafford, died while on holiday after his kidneys failed and he fell into a coma.

South Staffordshire Coroner's Court was told Mr King died after his life support was allegedly turned off because his family could not pay a £7,000 medical bill.

It came 11 days after the 39-year-old fell ill during a quad bike excursion in the desert.

The hospital in Hurghada initially treated Mr King with dialysis but reportedly switched off his life support nearly two weeks later after insurers refused to cover the bill.

His mother claimed her son's insurance was declared void because he had accidentally failed to report that he had been in hospital in 2015 with peritonitis. She also said there were no hospital notes about Mr King's care for four days up to his death on May 29 last year. Mrs Huxley, who lives in Stafford, added: "I'm hoping that with the publicity about it and the coroner's findings we can stop this happening to somebody else."

The hospital has insisted Adrian died of cardiac arrest, but his family and friends dispute this, claiming his care ended because his travel insurance was void.

Senior coroner Andrew Haigh recorded a narrative verdict, saying Mr King's death came from 'complication of kidney failure' after his 'collapse in a hot desert followed by limited medical treatment'.

'Ghost town' fear as the last bank to shut

THE LAST bank in Burntwood is to close, leaving residents fearing it is becoming a 'ghost town'.

Barclays at Sankey's Corner in Cannock Road will close on June 8 because, bosses say, not enough people are using it.

But residents claim there often queues in the branch and that it is still popular.

Many people have taked to social media to complain. One resident, Carolyne Williams, said: "We are becoming a ghost town? No thought for young families and the older generation."

Shellie Shakespeare also posted online: "How can they be shutting this branch when there is always a queue in there!!! Use it all the time."

A letter to residents from Barclays said: "The decision to close a branch is never an easy one; however, we are finding that fewer customers are using the branch to do their everyday banking. Taking into consideration the alternative ways to bank that are available in the area, we have made the decision to close the branch."

Impact

The nearest alternative Barclays will be 1.5 miles away at Market Place, Cannock.

Burntwood Town Council leader Doug Pullen said he is 'disappointed' but has assured residents he will ensure Barclays implements the Access to Banking Protocol.

This ensures that main high street banks work with customers and communities to minimise the impact of closures by ensuring residents get notice, know of alternative places to bank and have information to use internet or mobile banking.

He said: "While the nature of banking has clearly changed dramatically over the last decade, it remains disappointing that Barclays have made the decision to close their branch at Sankeys Corner while so many families and businesses are moving into the town."

Barclays says it will be in contact with the local community in the coming weeks to listen to concerns about the closure.

Cyclists are set a charity challenge

Hospice fundraiser Lisa Carson with Patrick Griffiths, left, and Peter Jordan from Cannock Chase Cycle Centre

CYCLISTS have been urged to take on a challenge to raise money for people with progressive illnesses.

The Katharine House Hospice Cycle Challenge will take place on May 6 from 9.30am, starting and finishing at Katherine House Hospice in Stafford.

There will be an eight-mile family route, a 20-mile 'mini route', a 45-mile 'midi route' and a 65-mile 'maxi route'.

Jack Swinnerton, from Cannock Chase Cycle Centre, which sponsors the event, said: "We are so pleased to support the Katharine House Cycling Challenge for 2018."

Lisa Carson, events fundraiser at the hospice, said: "We are looking forward to another successful cycling challenge and I'm hoping that cyclists will raise valuable funds."

Entry fees start at £10 and children under 16 ride for free.

Anyone who would like to take part can call 01785 270808 or visit www.khhospice.org.uk

Richard, 31, aims to be a leading NFU boss

A STAFFORDSHIRE man is in the running to be named vice-president of the National Farmers Union (NFU).

Richard Bower, aged 31, from Stafford, would become the NFU's youngest ever office holder if he is successful.

Richard Bower

He is a former student at Harper Adams University in Newport, and is among five others nominated for the post. Richard said: "I want to become NFU vice-president to play a part in shaping our generation's future.

"I believe I can complement an experienced president and deputy president to create a united, dynamic officeholder team at the NFU. This is an historic turning point for our country and our farming industry."

Richard studied agri-food marketing with business studies and food and fresh produce management at Harper Adams University in Newport.

Since graduating, he has been named as one of Farmers Weekly's Rising Stars, received a Henry Plumb Foundation Scholarship, and is the NFU Next Generation Policy Forum chairman.

Richard returned to the family beef and cereals farm in 2011, which he has helped diversify into an open farm that embraces conservation agriculture and renewable energy.

Great War role to be revealed

INFORMATION on Staffordshire's role during the First World War will be revealed at a free conference.

It will explore life on the home front, stories of conscientious objectors, the use of war memorials and the meaning of remembrance in the county.

The day will bring together professionals and history groups to share their findings.

Guest speakers include Dr Emma Login, from Historic England, and Ian Hook from the Imperial War Museum.

The conference will be held at the County Buildings, in Martin Street, Stafford, on March 10, from 10am to 4pm.

For further information email susan.dalloe@staffordshire.gov.uk or go to staffordshiregreatwar.com

Networking event

FREE refreshments are on offer at a networking event for Heath Hayes and Area Senior Residents' Association next week. There will be a number of speakers at the event, at the village library, in Hednesford Road, from 10am to 2pm, on Monday, February 26.

Peer to rally support for battle over green belt

A PUBLIC meeting is to be held next month to gather support for a campaign to protect the green belt.

Special guest will be Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb, the Green Party member of the House of Lords who is also a former Deputy London Mayor and Assembly member.

She has been invited by Cannock Chase Green Party with a view to her stressing to concerned residents the importance of registering public opposition against green belt developments 'before it's too late'.

There are two potential areas of green belt development we are concerned about, in particular are 1000 houses in Rawnsley and 450 houses in Cannock Wood.

Green Party councillor Paul Woodhead, who represents Hednesford South on Cannock Chase Council, said: "There are two potential areas of green belt development we are concerned about, in particular 1,000 houses in Rawnsley and 450 houses in Cannock Wood.

"We are already receiving many expressions of concern from residents who value these green spaces."

An Afternoon with Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb will be held at Cannock Wood and Gentleshaw Village Hall on Saturday, March 17 at 2pm.

Details can be found at https://an-afternoon-with-baroness-jones-of-moulescoomb.eventbrite.co.uk

Talk will track life of railway pioneer

THE life story of a Chadsmoor man who helped pioneer railways around the Cannock Chase district will be told at a talk held by Chadsmoor Heritage Society today (Thursday).

Francis Pigott, who lived in Chadsmoor for almost 40 years, was a pioneer of railway lines around the region during the early part of the 20th Century, and also played a big part in the development of the Old Hednesford Pit Church.

Society researcher Councillor Derek Davis will bring the life of Francis alive as he talks about his work and Chadsmoor roots.

The talk at Chadsmoor Methodist Church starts at 7.30pm, and all welcome to attend. For more details visit www.chadsmoorhistory.org.uk

Walk over the Hills

A TWO-HOUR guided walk on Hednesford Hills on February 28 will offer a chance to find out about the town's 'hidden gem'. It starts at 11am. Places cost £2 and should be booked by emailing diane.sanders@ihlmail.org

Karl back to scoop ice-cream award

Karl Simcock with the award

AN ice cream vendor business which suffered severe damage in a fire has bounced back – and now scooped a national award.

Tony's Ices, based at Astonfields Industrial Estate, Stafford, has been voted the best ice cream mobile in the country by The Ice Cream Alliance, the trade association for the UK's ice cream industry.

It comes as owner Karl Simcock, aged 43, from Stafford, is celebrating 25 years since launching the business, which is named after his older brother who died aged 10.

To celebrate the anniversary, the raised £4,000 for a number of good causes including £2,152 for the charity A Child of Mine, which supports bereaved families who have lost children.

Overjoyed

The award comes two years after a fire caused £10,000 worth of damage in one of the largest fires Stafford has ever seen, at Global Hygiene in March 2016.

Karl said: "I am overjoyed to win this award.

"For the ice cream industry, this is the equivalent of a movie star winning an Oscar.

"I don't mind admitting that when my name was announced, there was a tear in my eye – it is such a big achievement, and I'm so proud of my family and business partner Zara Taylor, who have been so supportive.

"Losing my brother when he was 10 was terrible for me, but it must have been even worse for my parents, and I'd like to think I have put a smile on Tony's face when he looks down and sees our vans and our award."

Plea on jobs as For Sale sign goes up at campus

SOUTH Staffordshire College's former Cannock campus has gone up for sale, six months after it closed down.

The 55,000 sq ft campus in The Green closed in July and is now on the market for an undisclosed fee.

The college made the decision to close the campus in July, four years after a £6 million revamp of the site. Its Progress Centre on Walsall Road also closed.

The decision came after a proposed merger with Walsall College fell through.

In 2015 South Staffordshire College had to make £2m worth of cuts, with jobs being slashed in previous years.

The Department for Education had suggested South Staffordshire merge with Walsall College because of the latter's 'financial strength' but this was ruled out by both colleges.

Cannock Chase Council leader George Adamson said he hopes the building can be back in use sooner rather than later.

Attractive

"Obviously we didn't want the college to close as we wanted them to keep using the building for educational purposes," he said.

"But now they've gone, the sooner the building is back in use the better – rather than being left to decay. I'd like to see shops, offices and decent paid jobs in there.

"It's a good location, right in the town centre and next to the bus station. It should be quite an attractive proposition. But it is frightening to think they spent £6m refurbishing it then moved out three years later."

A statement on the website of Kingston Commercial Property Consultants, which is marketing the campus, says: "The site extends to 1.41 acres and comprises the main college building (originally constructed in 1928) along with The Manse (a 19th century former detached residence now used as offices), and two modern single storey buildings previously used as a restaurant and a children's nursery.

"As currently laid out, there is car parking for around 65 cars."

David Battersby, who had a passion for the history of his hometown, wrote and contributed to many books about the area

Historian with love of town dies, 84

A WELL-known Cannock historian has died aged 84.

David Battersby, who had a passion for the history of his hometown, died suddenly from a heart attack on January 31. A service of thanksgiving for his life will be held at St Luke's Church on March 1 at 12.30pm.

Mr Battersby wrote and contributed to many books about the area, including 'The Story of Cannock Town Centre Through The Ages' first published in 2004.

He was a founder member of the Bridgtown and District Local History Society and was known for his entertaining illustrated talks and lectures on Cannock.

A past president of The Rotary Club of Cannock, Mr Battersby received a Paul Harris Fellowship – the highest award in Rotary – in 2012 for his outstanding contribution to the community. He was also a member of The Cannock and District Probus Club.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Church prepares for Easter Trail

THE Brereton, Rugeley & Armitage Team Ministry are holding their annual Easter Trail on Saturday, March 24.

The event, which is suitable for all ages and is designed to mark the start of Holy Week, will be held at St Michael's Church in Main Road, Brereton.

Guided journeys starting in the Churchroom can be taken between 10am and 1pm.

Further details are available by calling Sue Whitehouse on 01889 800939 or, on Tuesday and Friday mornings, the parish office on 01889 574157.

Email bandrparish@gmail.com

Cinema in appeal on lost jewellery

CINEMA staff want to reunite a lost piece of jewellery with its owner.

The item was found on Friday, February 9, after the opening night showing of Fifty Shades Freed at Cannock's Electric Palace Picture House.

In a post on Facebook, bosses at the Walsall Road cinema wrote: "If you or maybe a friend you came with has lost some, then please get in touch with the cinema on 01543 574425 or message us on Facebook telling us where you were sitting and what the item is with a description of it. We would love to get it back with its rightful owner."

Knife scanner to be used in clubs

A KNIFE arch will be used in pubs and nightclubs to combat a steep increase in stabbings.

The arch, which can detect if someone is carrying a knife or gun, will be introduced next month in Walsall town centre and moved from club to club.

The American-style knife arches, similar to those used at airports, will be used in Walsall for the first time on March 3, although the actual location will be kept under wraps until the time, after which it will be moved around the town's nightspots.

Farm's murder mystery night in aid of hospice

CANALSIDE Farm near Rugeley is hosting a murder mystery event on April 13 for Katharine House Hospice.

The event will start at 7pm, with the profits from each ticket being donated to the charity.

Tickets cost £18 per person, which includes a two-course supper. For more information call 01889 881747 or visit www.canalsidefarm.co.uk

Tickets must be pre-booked in advance using the website.

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COUNTY NEWS

Electrician lit up by £1m jackpot

A MYSTERY EuroMillions winner from the West Midlands has become a millionaire even without touching a ticket.

The lucky electrician, – known as Mr B – scooped the £1m prize in the UK Millionaire Maker draw on February 2 by playing online. He plans to pay off the mortgage, go on holiday and treat the family.

Mr B, who also won £5.30 by matching two main numbers and one 'lucky star' number, played EuroMillions through national-lottery.co.uk

National Lottery spokesman Andy Carter said: "Playing online is increasingly popular."

Pop-up events reaping rewards

TOWNS and cities that host regular pop-up events like farmers' markets and festivals are reaping significant financial rewards, a new report says.

The West Midlands was identified as having the best range of pop-up events, including the Birmingham International Dance Festival, MADE festival and Crufts Dog Show.

A study of 1,000 households found that these more vibrant and active areas saw knock-on effects such as more trade for local businesses.

Gavin Hepburn, director at ATG Access who commissioned the survey, said events also helped to create a greater sense of community spirit.

New recruits for food warehouse

AN employment programme has helped 45 people secure jobs at Iceland's new Food Warehouse in Wolverhampton.

Iceland worked with the Wolves at Work scheme to recruit 50 staff for the shop at the Peel Centre, Stafford Street, It is set to open on March 13.

A total of 45 of the 50 retail assistant and night replenishment assistant roles have been filled by Wolverhampton residents.

Of those, 27 were previously unemployed.

Advice on spotting signs of child abuse

EDUCATION leaders have united to spot the signs of abused children.

More than 150 teachers, lecturers and educational representatives gathered for the child sexual exploitation awareness event, organised by Staffordshire Police and the West Midlands Regional Organised Crime Unit.

Youngsters learn how to identify grooming and then how to seek support over different forms of abuse.

Foodies to enjoy global dishes at festival

FOODIES are set to be treated to flavours from across the globe at an inaugural festival.

Lichfield will play host to street food festival Café International, bringing an eclectic mix of aromas and flavours to the area.

Visitors are expected to celebrate their love of food within the picturesque surroundings of Beacon Park from 10am on Saturday, May 5. The food and drink celebration is the brainchild of couple Nicola Clark and Stefan Siekierski, who run their events management company of the same name in the city.

Ms Clark said: "As self-confessed foodies who love Lichfield, we are very excited to be working with the Lichfield District Council to support Lichfield's picturesque parks with this unique dining experience. The free events will bring families together to dine in the wonderful parks.

"Street Food is becoming increasingly popular, and it is great to support mobile caterers who share our passion for food and the theatre of open-air cookery."

Dishes from around the world are expected to entice visitors into Café International, with guests enjoying international cuisine from the comfort of a central marquee alongside street cooking.

French crepes, Sicilian cannoli and Japanese hirata buns are just some of the delights which will be on offer at Café International.

There will be a fully stocked bar open until 10pm, as well as two marquees offering gin and Prosecco.

To get involved, or for VIP seating, email info@cafeinternational.co.uk

'Justice for family' aim of murder case review

By Alex Ross

A POLICE boss said he wants justice for Kevin Nunes's family as he announced that a review of the botched murder case was to be carried out.

The 22-year-old's bullet-ridden body was found 16 years ago in Pattingham, yet the case remains unsolved. A previous investigation led to the murder convictions and jailing of five men.

But those convictions were overturned after details concerning a key witness were not disclosed during the trial.

Kevin Nunes

Staffordshire Police were criticised in an Independent Police Complaints Commission report for its handling of the case last year.

Now, the Chief Constable, Gareth Morgan, says he hopes to redeem the lost trust in the force over the damning episode by solving the murder case.

He met the family last month, outlining his intention to review the case. He said: "This [the Kevin Nunes murder case] has had an impact on the trust and confidence from the public. I am determined to do something to resolve that – clearly bringing justice for an unsolved crime would go toward that."

The review will be carried out by another police force and is the first stage of a potential re-investigation of the case. Staffordshire Police will hand over all evidence for examination to a specialist police team.

Mr Morgan said he expected to hear back by the summer if there was then scope to reopen the investigation.

Asked why the review was being launched, he said: "Justice for the family – this murder case is never closed for the family and it is currently an unsolved murder. There is a need to bring justice and closure."

Families to search for fairies and elves

Rebecca Banks gets ready for the fairy door trail at Hilton Green

THE search is on today (Thursday) for fairies and elves at Hilton Green.

Families can enjoy a fairy door trail where they search for clues to find the doors, write a letter to the fairies, wish in a wishing pond and decorate fairy cakes. It is the first half-term event at the Essington site since it was transformed into an outdoor centre from a decommissioned sewage treatment works in a £200,000 project.

After two years of work, the derelict site had new life breathed into it so now it has a green oak classroom complete with a moat, drawbridge, reedbeds, a forest school area with benches, a barbecue and fire pit with totem poles. Hilton Green was officially opened at the Forest of Mercia CIC Winter Fayre in November by Sir Harry Studholme, chairman of the Forestry Commission.

Forest of Mercia CIC took over the lease for the land in 2015 to transform the site.

"We are really looking forward to families coming down and enjoying using all aspects of the site," director Rebecca Banks said.

● A two-week intensive carpentry and construction course will be held at Hilton Green from March 5 to 16 between 10am and 4.30pm each day. For more information call 01922 417770 or 07525 119321.

Carillion's staff 'out of pocket' after crash

FORMER workers who lost their jobs at Carillion say they have been cast adrift with no money and little information despite government reassurances about the welfare of staff caught up in the company's collapse.

This week the Insolvency Service said it was making a priority of making redundancy payments to former Carillion workers.

But former staff claim they have been without the vital information they need in order to make any claims.

More than 1,000 people lost their jobs at the Wolverhampton-based construction and services giant after it collapsed last month, with debts in the billions and just £29 million in the bank.

In an update, the Official Receiver said deals with new companies buying Carillion contracts had secured the jobs of another 942 workers, but 152 are being made redundant this week.

While 7,610 jobs have been secured, 1,141 have been lost, and the future of around 10,000 UK Carillion workers hangs in the balance.

An Insolvency Service spokesperson said: "We have received no complaints around failing to respond to correspondence, and our customer helpline is closely monitored.

"We are prioritising the payment of redundancy payments owed to the former employees of Carillion and have established a specialist team spanning both the Redundancy Payments Service and the company's HR department to process these as quickly as possible. All eligible employees of the group can make a claim for redundancy, including those who have transferred to new suppliers."

Half-term fun at wildlife centre

PLENTY of outdoor activities are on offer for the last few days of half-term at Staffordshire Wildlife Trust's Wolseley Centre.

Tomorrow (Friday) children will have the chance to play in the outdoor classroom at a Wildlings event. It costs £5 per child along with £3 per additional sibling and will be held between 10.30am and midday.

Families can also learn to cook on a camp fire tomorrow at the Wildfamilies Workshop with an introduction to cooking, lighting fires safely and fire management. Three simple camp fire recipes will be provided including toasting marshmallows.

Then on Saturday, children with special educational needs and disabilities will be able to learn new skills including tree climbing.

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Huge fire at farm still burning, 17 months on

A HUGE fire that has been burning at a farm near Rugeley for more than a year still has not been extinguished, despite bosses revealing it was safe to do so.

Chiefs at Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service said at the beginning of this month that the fire at Oak Tree Farm, Slitting Mill, could finally be put out.

The stack of 1,000 tonnes of waste has been smouldering since September 2016, causing great frustration to nearby locals.

But large amounts of water needed to extinguish the burning rubbish risked contaminating the aquifer underneath.

Now, a spokesman for the fire service has said thermal imaging work was being carried out to further determine when the fire would be safe to fully extinguish.

The fire in Slitting Mill Road was deliberately started as a controlled burn, but later got out of control, creating thick smoke around the area.

Residents had to keep their doors and windows shut 10 days after the fire started on the farmland. Two men were permanently banned from moving materials from the site after an injunction was served on them.

Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service said the responsibility for the site will be returned to the occupier when it was confident the fire was fully out.

Rethink call over victims' journeys

Staffordshire's Police & Crime Commissioner wants the NHS to reconsider moving where child victims of serious sexual abuse are examined.

The examinations are due to be moved from facilities in Cobridge, near Stoke-on-Trent, to Walsall, more than 25 miles away.

Matthew Ellis believes this is too long a trip to make for children suffering from such a crime – and wants the NHS to start seeing the children in areas more central to where they live.

Mr Ellis said: "I have instructed officials in my office to work with the police here to encourage NHS England to rethink the alternative options, which I understand need greater flexibility from paediatricians in Staffordshire."

Boots at the ready

CHASE Ramblers are off on a nine-mile easy/moderate walk from Lee Brockhurst, Shropshire, this Sunday, meeting at Hednesford railway station car park for a 9am departure. Call 07954 170369 for more details.

Chiefs in 'next steps' on libraries plan

Councillor Gill Heath – 'relevant'

HUNDREDS of people have had their say on proposals to bring in volunteers to help run libraries.

STAFFORDSHIRE County Council is running a consultation on the future of its libraries.

Changes would affect services in Burntwood, Cannock, Codsall, Eccleshall, Lichfield, Penkridge, Perton, Rugeley, Stafford, Stone and Wombourne.

Options on the table include allowing libraries to become part self-service, extending opening hours by bringing in volunteers or having buildings taken over completely by community groups.

Plans are already being drawn up to make Penkridge Library community managed as it is one of the least used in the county.

Spoken

Nearly 700 people have shared their views, and those who have not yet taken part in the consultation are being encouraged to share their views before April 1.

Councillor Gill Heath, Staffordshire County Council's cabinet member for communities, said: "We've spoken to the public a great deal in recent years about how best to keep all our libraries open and relevant to the communities they serve. We're looking to take the next steps in that process, and I'm delighted so many people have already been to find out more and contribute their thoughts to the process.

"There are still plenty of meetings to go, and I would urge people who are interested to have their say in person or in writing."

Comment at connectedlibraries@staffordshire.gov.uk

Hundreds support bid to save Sunday bus services

HUNDREDS of people signed a petition within a few days to save Sunday services in Cannock and Stafford which are being axed after funding was cut.

Arriva is cutting bus services that run from their Delta Way depot in Cannock on Sundays from April 1 because subsidies from Staffordshire County Council have been axed.

The petition on change.org, started by Lee Murphy, is demanding that the council reverses its decision to cut funding.

Almost 500 people signed the petition within four days of it being launched at the weekend.

The petition says: "Staffordshire County Council have made the decision to stop subsidies to Arriva Midlands which enables them to run evening and Sunday services from their Cannock depot (serving Cannock, Stafford, Huntington, Hednesford and Great Wyrley).

"This means all evening and Sunday buses will be withdrawn from April 1st 2018 and affecting hundreds of people, particularly the elderly, will be unable to travel during these times where there are no alternate operators.

Unfair

"Some elderly and disabled users may have little opportunity to leave the house, and by cutting bus services back this leaves even less opportunity.

"In addition to this, users paying as much as £520pa for a Cannock/Stafford region, or £800pa for West Midlands region bus passes will receive less value for money.

"This is unfair to hard working commuters who deserve to use their pass for leisure evenings and weekends."

Those who have signed the petition have commented on nurses needing services and staff working at a large Great Wyrley care home.

The council cut bus funding after a consultation, and it was decided by Arriva that funding the services would be unsustainable. Go to www.change.org/p/mark-deaville-reverse-the-decision-to-cut-arriva-midlands-funding-save-sunday-services

● Letters – Page 8

New Jonnie inquest edges closer

John Meek and April Keeling lost their son Jonnie Meek, who died aged three

THE heartbroken parents of a three-year-old boy who died unexpectedly at the former Stafford Hospital believe they are closer to getting a second inquest.

The Attorney General is now presiding over the inquiry into the death of Jonnie Meek and will decide whether to hold a fresh hearing, while it has emerged that two further medical experts have disagreed with the original cause of death on record.

John Meek, 44, and April Keeling, 31, from Cannock, have always maintained that their son died from an allergic reaction to milk and not from natural causes.

Jonnie, who suffered from congenial disability de Grouchy Syndrome, died on April 11, 2014 within three hours of being placed on a new trial feed.

An independent investigation by consultant paediatrician Dr Martin Farrier, has since concluded the original inquest verdict 'is at odds' with the circumstances and recommended a new hearing.

Now Jonnie's parents say their concerns have been reinforced by two further experts, Dr Andreas Kyriacou Marnerides and Dr Donald Hodge. Mr Meek said: "We now have three independent experts reinforcing our theory."

The Attorney General's Office said it will 'make a decision as soon as possible'."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Quill's new album to feature in gig

BIRMINGHAM folk rock band Quill will be performing songs old and new, including tracks from their recent album, Brush With The Moon, at the Lichfield Garrick next week.

Renowned as one of the most adventurous bands to have come out of the Midlands, Quill have developed a unique musical style that has captured many varied influences.

The seven-piece outfit's Lichfield gig, on Friday, March 2, is part of their 2018 Riding Rainbows Tour.

Tickets are £22 available from the theatre's box office by calling 01543 412121 or online by visiting www.lichfieldgarrick.com

Open day to mark school's milestone

A SOUTH Staffordshire school is celebrating its 40th anniversary with an invitation to the community and beyond to an open day.

Cheslyn Hay Sport and Community High School is holding the open day on July 14 from midday to 4pm.

There will be stalls, performances and guided tours with old photographs on show and classrooms set up to represent each decade that the school has been open. The event is open to everyone, from families of current students to ex-students, ex-staff and members of the local community.

Purple classics on Hughes's UK tour

CANNOCK-BORN rock star Glenn Hughes is to play a nine-date UK tour in the autumn.

The tour between October 2 and 15 will see the singer and bass player performing classic Deep Purple songs.

He was a member of the group between 1973 and 1976.

The only Midlands date on the tour will be at Leamington Spa's The Assembly on October 3. Before then, Hughes will be taking the show to a number of countries including France, Chile, Argentina and Brazil.

Go to www.glennhughes.com

Blackadder star in city festival line-up

THE popular Lichfield Literary Festival returns on March 1 with more than 50 events at city venues.

This year's line-up includes Blackadder and Time Team's Sir Tony Robinson, comedy from Rich Hall and Zoe Lyons, and authors Professor Ian Stewart, Diarmaid MacCulloch and Jane Hawking, former wife of Stephen Hawking. Venues include Erasmus Darwin House and Swinfen Hall. To book, visit www.lichfieldfestival.org

IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Handouts of £10k? Why it just won't work

A THOUGHT-provoking report by the Royal Society for the Arts suggests unemployment benefit, child benefit and tax credits should all be stopped, and instead everybody under the age of 55 should receive a one-off handout of £10,000.

Well, to be precise, it is actually proposing two payments of £5,000 each, which could be funded by new taxes on social media giants such as Facebook and Apple.

Now aside from the question about why the over-55s are excluded – discrimination surely? – the proposal will no doubt prove pretty popular with those who are eligible. An extra 10 grand in the back pocket, paid for by global fat cats? What's not to like?

While its title might suggest it is predominantly concerned with opera houses and art galleries, the RSA is actually a serious champion of social reform, with a distinguished history of coming up with radical ideas. Previous fellows include Charles Dickens, Benjamin Franklin, free-market economist Adam Smith and the, er Marxist, Karl Marx, so it encompasses a diverse range of intellectual talent. But while the idea will no doubt stimulate debate, you don't need to be Stephen Hawking – another former fellow – to see why it won't work.

When the Government starts doling out £10,000 bounties to all and sundry, the recipients will inevitably fall into two categories. There will be those who diligently take advice and carefully invest the money in a diverse portfolio of savings, stocks and shares, pensions, and insurance, knowing they may need something to call on for a rainy day.

Then there will be those who will go out and buy a giant flat-screen telly, the latest smartphone – probably made by one of the hated tech giants that the scheme was set up to target and an expensive games console. Next they will book a fortnight's holiday in Benidorm (keeping back a few hundred quid for lager, naturally). And if there's anything left at the end, it will be used as a down-payment to buy a new car on the never-never.

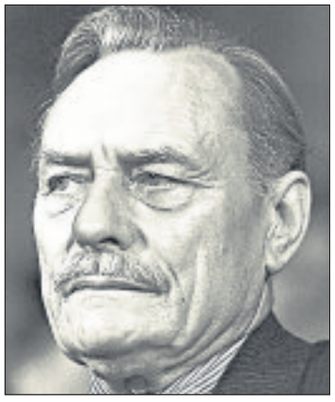
A few years down the line when it all goes pear-shaped, those who have put a bit away will find their investments have been eroded by inflation, not helped by the Government's decision to give everyone a 10-grand handout.

And those who wasted the money? Cue doleful pictures in sympathetic tabloids, and stories about life on the breadline because the Government stopped unemployment benefit, child benefit and tax credits.

Needs to be visible but out of reach of the wreckers

Steve Coogan – back as Alan Partridge. A masterpiece but beaten by The Trip

David Davis – caught up in the everyday haggling over the Brexit deal



Enoch Powell – would be wrong to say that we warmed to each other

I'm torn over push for Enoch plaque

I AM torn on this campaign to erect a blue plaque in Wolverhampton to commemorate the city's most significant MP, Enoch Powell. It would be a target for vandals, unless it could be placed somewhere in the city where it would be visible, but not visible enough to cause offence, and was well out of reach of wreckers. Pity they demolished the old Goodyear Chimney. I only interviewed Enoch Powell once. It would be wrong to say we warmed to each other.

A READER points out that, if you give the charity Water Aid £2 a month it can supply water to a family in scorching-dry Africa. So why does Severn-Trent demand £38 a month from him to do much the same in a country where, as he puts it, "it pees down with rain two days out of five on average?" Fair point.

BREXIT - An Everyday Story of Hagglers. In this week's episode M. Barnier says Britain must make up its mind what it wants. Mr Davis says, thanks, Michel, we'll have this. M. Barnier says, non, you cannot have that. Just like last week. Just like next week.

STEVE Coogan is returning to telly with a new series, This Time with Alan Partridge. We can expect another excellent slice of cringe-comedy. And yet, while Partridge is a comic masterpiece, for my money the best thing Coogan ever did was The Trip (2010-2014) in which he and Rob Brydon toured Northern England and Europe, allegedly reviewing restaurants for an upmarket Sunday newspaper. It was stressed that these were "fictionalised versions" of Coogan and Brydon, yet the insecurity and point-scoring of real-life thespians seemed genuine as they flirted with the staff and pitted their best Roger Moore and Sean Connery accents at each other over dinner. Brydon's conversation with one of the petrified corpses in Pompeii was one of the funniest things I've seen on telly, albeit it in very bad taste. So while it's good to see Partridge return, I'd rather see a new series of The Trip.

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

WE woke a few days ago to two depressingly familiar items of news. In Northern Ireland, time was yet again running out for a decision on forming a government. In Florida, kids were howling in grief after yet another American high-school massacre. The same old headlines keep coming around and it feels like living in a time-loop. Welcome to Groundhog Day.

COUNCIL tax looks set to rise. If the money is to be used for social care, who can complain? Yet doesn't it seem daft to bump council-tax bills up by £100 in April and give millions of us £100 back in winter-fuel allowance in November?

OUR changing language. Military terms once understood by millions of squaddies are a puzzle for Britain's younger generation. This explains a common error, as seen this week in a Daily Mail report about the unexploded device in London: "Navy divers work to diffuse massive 5ft long WWII bomb." Defuse, perhaps?

IN the great Peter Rabbit allergy debate, my sympathies are with the snowflakes. In a new animated film, Peter and his chums defeat their enemy Tom by pelting him with fruit to which he is allergic. A charity, Allergy UK, complained and took some flak on the lines of: "Oh, lighten up, snowflakes, it's only a joke. " And then we learned more about the scene. The fruit brings on such a violent allergic reaction that Tom falls to the ground choking and turning red before stabbing himself with his life-saving Epi-Pen. Not so funny after all, is it? I bet we all know kids whose lives are blighted by severe allergy and who must carry their Epi-Pen at all times. The remarkable thing is that apparently at no stage in the production did any script editors, animators or stars see anything wrong in making a joke about anaphylactic shock. Some parents have called for the scene to be re-shot, so here's an hilarious alternative. The rabbits trick Tom into wearing striped pyjamas and put him on a train to somewhere called Belsen. Oh, lighten up, snowflakes, it's only a joke . . . .

GOOD news. My long-term holiday haunt of Beer in Devon did not win Channel 4's Village of the Year competition. That honour went to Broughshane in County Antrim which I dare say will become a seething trippers' honeypot, allowing Beer to slip back into unjam-packed serenity.

TALKING POINT

Turn-off as television is awash with soaps

SOME wives say they are golfing widows. Me, I'm a TV soaps widower.

Trouble is, while husbands disappear off to the par fours and, no doubt, soak up the atmosphere at the 19th hole, I'm stuck next to 'er indoors, being subjected to whatever minor, or major disaster has befallen one of the characters in Corrie, Emmerdale etc.

You used to know where you stood with what are now termed 'serial dramas', they were on one or two nights a week, one half hour at a time. That's to say, it was only 24 minutes or so, per night of dross to suffer, perhaps once or twice during the week....

Not now – double-length episodes, or the dreaded "We'll be back in Weatherfield in half an hour."

And another thing. Conversation. If you do want to say something during the course of an episode, (I mean, how dare you), women – so-called experts of multi-tasking – press live pause on the remote. Oh no, there's no truck with actually talking in response and keeping a watchful eye on the programme – after all they might miss the nuance of a furrowed brow, or a pantomime grimace, or staring into space before the advert break.

I mean, really, could the acting get any worse? One bloke in Emmerdale is obviously an expert in crying, as that's all he does. Impressive, but surely there's something lacking in emotional range.

Then you've got Gail Platt's hairdresser son in Corrie – the perpetual frowner. I thought I was miserable, but he takes the biscuit!

But getting back to the live pause, when it is pressed, it's like a little part of me dies inside, as I know it will prolong the agony, as it takes even longer to watch!

Still, it could be worse, I mean there could be 20 backed-up episodes of Jeremy Kyle on the planner. Oh no, wait a minute, there are! So on the off chance that there is not a soap being shown, I get the delights of Shane and Demi's convoluted love-life being prodded and probed by Jezzer in front of a highly amused audience.

I now know why they show decent films late at night on the box, it's for long-suffering fools like me who, after Pointless, Eggheads and maybe the news, don't get a look-in for the rest of the evening until their partner is in the land of nod.

Perhaps I'll start knitting, or maybe even, go out? Nah, I'll just suffer in silence, if only so she doesn't press the pause button again!

GRAEME ANDREW

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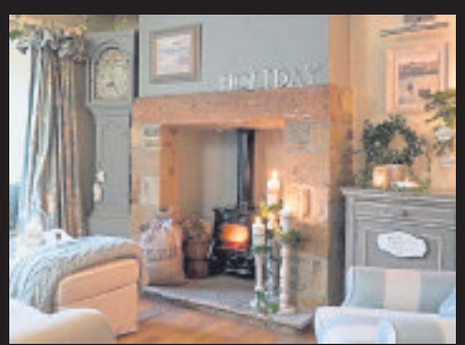

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Landmark to reopen after £1.5m revamp

A LANDMARK Georgian house is due to reopen its doors after a £1.5 million makeover to restore the building to its former splendour.

The Grade 2*-listed White House in Cannock has been transformed into offices and apartments after lying empty since it was put up for sale by South Staffordshire College two years ago.

Renovation workers have been at the site for the last four months, during which a number of features such as sash windows have been installed and various repairs carried out.

The new owner, businessman Fred Pritchard, will base his property company Anglesey Real Estate there. Also opening are a restaurant called Desert and a photographic studio, while one wing is given over to a beauty therapy business, The Sanctuary.

Fred Pritchard and his wife Sarah at The White House

Proud

In addition, part of the property has been converted into eight apartments, including a garden flat overlooking the grounds.

Mr Pritchard said he was proud of the standard of the restoration.

"It has included replacement of period features such as plastering using traditional methods and materials, and replacing modern windows which were out of character with the building," he said.

"Considerable roof repairs, thermal and sound insulation upgrades, structural repairs, utilising modern structural methods to stabilise the walls, have also been carried out."

The building has had several guises since it was built as a family home in 1783 for Sir Robert Fisher, with the distinction of being the first house in Cannock to have its own water pump.

Masterclass for start-ups

ENTREPRENEURS thinking of starting a new business are being offered advice and support to help get started.

Enterprise for Success is part funded by the European Regional Development Fund and offers support to business start-ups and new businesses helping them to thrive and grow.

Next month, a two-day business start-up masterclass will be held at Cannock Library.

The free programme is run by the Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP and offers access to a wide range of specialist advisers to help with business-plan preparation and cash-flow forecasts on a one-to-one basis.

There are also specialist training workshops available in finance, marketing, PR, tax and business planning.

To book a place at the masterclass, on March 15 and 16 from 10am to 4pm, call 01543 464272. For more information on the support available for Cannock Chase businesses, email econdev@cannockchasedc.gov.uk

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Be aware of these symptoms

IN recent weeks we have heard an alarming number of stories about people with Parkinson's being misunderstood or mistreated by the staff of public-facing businesses across the UK.

Parkinson's affects everyone differently but the main symptoms are tremor (shaking), slowness of movement, and muscle stiffness.

Parkinson's UK has created a free and easily accessible Parkinson's in Your Workplace training package and the charity is calling on all businesses to roll out the training and make sure their staff understand Parkinson's and can support their customers' needs.

To join the campaign, visit www.parkinsons.org.uk/UFP

STEVE FORD
Parkinson's UK

Bus cuts will add to the loneliness problem

I WAS horrified when I read that Staffordshire County Council have decided to pull the plug on bus services in the Cannock Chase area on Sundays.

This will be the first time in over 100 years that there have been no buses on Sundays.

Hitler didn't manage it but the Conservatives who run the county council have.

What on Earth are our local county councillors doing about it? There is a deafening silence from them.

Not everyone has access to a car and if they need to visit someone in hospital or just try to get out for a few hours they will have no chance unless they can find someone kind enough to give them a lift.

Loneliness is a massive problem in this country, and the county council have just ensured that it will get worse by ensuring that many people will not be able to get out on Sundays.

It makes you wonder what use Staffordshire County Council is.

They hike up the council tax and cut services to the bone.

GEORGE ADAMSON
Cannock

What we need is a proper referendum

HELLO to you Brexiteers. Are you still dreaming about the £350 million per week promised for the NHS?

Still pleased to be part of the 37 per cent of the electorate who voted to leave the EU? Are you still ignoring the figures – 17 million who voted to leave, 16 million who voted to stay, 13 million chose not to vote.

There are 65 million citizens in the UK and yet 17 million won the day? Somebody is pulling your leg.

It is small wonder that Theresa May chooses to keep the country in the dark.

What price democracy, eh! I think what we need is a proper referendum with a realistic exit.

FRANCIS J WARD
Rugeley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Cannock & Rugeley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
cannock.chron@expressandstar.co.uk

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Increase is a major burden

IN response to Councillor Edwards's letter, he tries to make out people are only paying £5 a month extra but they are not ("Council has significantly reduced its costs", February 15).

As published on February 8 in the Chronicle if you take a Band D property they are paying £68 to the county council, £11.40 to the police, £2 to the fire service and £4.07 to Cannock Chase Council, which is £86.47 extra.

This is without the parish council rise, so it could hit £100 a month extra, which is a lot of money to the majority of households who are on minimum wage and are struggling to exist as it is.

He needs to get back into the real world.

R PEATY
Cannock

I'm still chewing over that costly treatment

'LOOK after your teeth'. That was the mantra, but the school dentist whipped 'em out.

I tried to retain those remaining. I gripped the chair as needle, drill and scrapers tortured. I choked on the debris. I had regular checks. The costs increased with age. Usually out of warranty, another piece falls off.

Last week, the final straw, another payout. The wife's ultimatum was cruel. No more pork crackling and toffee.

Years ago, the brother-in law, careful with money and faced with fillings, ordered all teeth removed in one sitting. How we chortled. What was he thinking?

I've got my reward, supping gruel and chomping mash. Meanwhile, the brother-in-law smiles like a film star, scoffs plenty of crackling and 30 years of dental have cost him zilch! I'm not bitter.

K GEE
Rugeley

No return on this route

A STAGECOACH is going to run from Walsall to Hednesford on Sundays and after 6pm every night ("Sunday buses axed in cuts", Chronicle, February 15).

If you wish to book a ticket, contact either "Calamity Jane" at Staffs County Council, or "Billie the Kid" at Arriva Cannock.

ROGER ALLEN
Great Wyrley

Quiz begins fundraising for the year

Rugeley Committee for Macmillan Cancer

DURING 2017 the Rugeley committee sent £4,300 to head office. Then during December the Chadsmoor Line Dancers sent the committee a cheque for £1,545, the result of a lunch and various additional activities.

This committee went carol singing in the Brewery Arcade Café and raised £95, so was able to remit a further £1,800, making a grand total for 2017 of £5,940. Thank you to all who have supported the charity.

The Rugeley Committee has existed for 42 years and the members have grown older and fewer in numbers and so it is not able to organise the events it once did. What is needed are new younger members willing to assist in raising funds for the charity which assists many cancer patients in this area.

The committee starts its fundraising for 2018 with a quiz, on Wednesday, February 28 at Mansfield House, Market Street, from 7.30pm.

Cost is £10 a term of four, or £2.50 per member. All are welcome.

The following evening the committee holds its Annual General Meeting at 7.30pm in Mansfield House so anyone wishing to assist this charity or just find out about its work is very welcome to learn more.

This is the only committee working for this charity in the Cannock Chase area, and any help is appreciated. Call 01889 582837 for more.

Guest speaker: I'm Henry the eighth I am

John S White as Henry VIII sand president Val Jones

SI Cannock & District

PRESIDENT Val Jones welcomed more than 80 Soroptimists and guests to the Cannock club's 63rd annual dinner held at Brocton Hall Golf Club; in particular she welcomed Amanda Milling MP, Region President Pat Cross and President of SI Bilston, Cannock's mother club, Ann James.

Sheila Yard, chairman of Cannock & District Ladies' Probus and a former Soroptimist, proposed the toast to SI. Pat Cross congratulated the Cannock members on all they had achieved in the last year to educate, empower and enable women.

After a delicious meal President Val introduced the speaker, John S White as King Henry VIII, in bejewelled, splendid attire, who regaled his audience with the trials and tribulations – and occasional happy moments – of his six marriages, introducing aspects of the Tudor King's life of which many were probably unaware. Soroptimist Trish Mellor gave the vote of thanks.

Talk has members spellbound

Hednesford TWG

A SPECIAL welcome was extended to guest Kathleen Myatt. The chairman then announced the sad loss of Margaret Romaniuk who passed away on February 9. Margaret had been a guild member for some time and will be sadly missed.

There was an invitation from Great Wyrley guild to join them on their visit to the New Vic Theatre Newcastle for the show 'Votes for Women'. Three members accepted and will join them on March 22.

The speaker Anthony Hunt had everyone spellbound with his talk on 'Unsolved Murders', this one in Bridgtown concerning one woman, her husband and three men!

This was Anthony's third visit and once again he gave an excellent talk. The guild meets on the second Monday in the month at St Peter's Church at 2pm.

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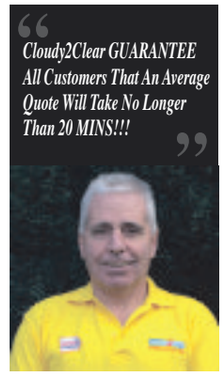

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Music fans disc-over a taste for retro formats

Ben Gamble with a record player which went for £1,300 at auction

Sounds good – a box of vinyl records that sold for £100

These records fetched £200

A BOOST in interest in vintage record players and vinyl has been reported by an auction house.

Cuttlestones, which has sales rooms in Penkridge and Wolverhampton, says the enthusiasm for retro music players even extends to CD and tape players.

A teak-cased Garrard Model 301 record player with combined Revox stereo tape recorder along with various examples of music sold recently for £1,300.

In the same sale, the hammer fell at £680 on a Musical Fidelity 24 bit CD player and a Pioneer TX-9100 stereo with Music Fidelity boxes, followed by a pair of Bowers & Wilkins speakers that made £650.

Records also performed well, with a box of LPs – including Jane's Addiction, Eurythmics and R.E.M, – selling for £200 while another collection of LPs, including coloured vinyl and picture-disc examples featuring artists such as ZZ Top, Pink Floyd and The Hollies, achieved £100 in total.

Remember

Auctioneer Ben Gamble said: "Interest really seems to be peaking, not only in traditional collectable formats but also decent quality CD and tape players.

"I guess like the guys who keep a record player for their vinyl collection, many of us who remember the days before digital music still have extensive back catalogues of tapes and CDs that they still want to listen to.

"Vinyl remains collectable – even from artists that were selling in the time of alternative formats –and it's a trend we don't see slowing down as new generations of vinyl junkies discover the delights of music not just available at the touch of a button."

All the company's auctions are now online so can reach global audiences, Mr Gamble added.

For a free valuation of records, tapes or CD players, call in at Cuttlestones' Penkridge sale room between 10am and 3pm on Thursdays or email a selection of photographs to valuations@cuttlestones.co.uk

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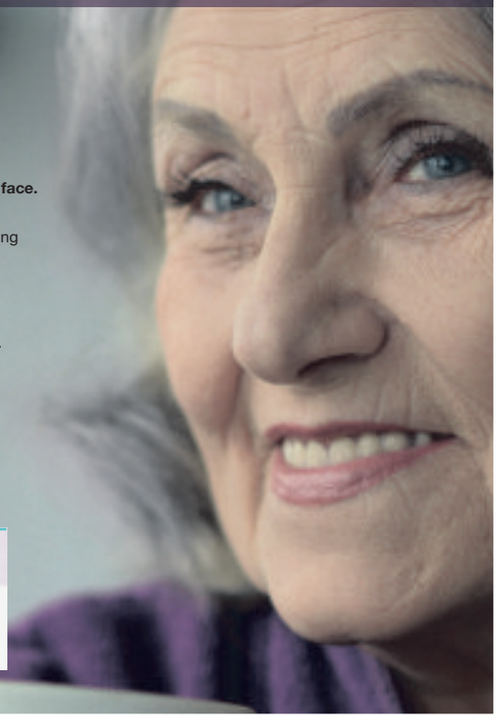

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M6 Toll firm gives £800 to activity site

Activity instructors Charlotte Skimming and Matt Taylor with Cassie Clark, of Midland Expressway Ltd

AN activity centre has received a cash boost from operators of the M6 Toll.

Staff from Midland Expressway Ltd have provided the Beaudesert Activity Centre with a donation of £800 for a fundraising campaign.

The money will go towards the installation of caging around the working estate area at the centre as part of an ongoing safety programme.

Managed and run by the Beaudesert Trust, the site is a 130-acre area on the edge of Cannock Chase which is visited by 40,000 children each year.

The trust was founded to manage lands gifted for use by Scouts, Guides and other youth organisations.

Chairman Jeremy Cotton said: "Beaudesert Outdoor Activity Centre is very grateful for the donation of £800." Cassie Clark, social committee member at Midland Expressway Ltd, said: "It was a real pleasure to visit the activity centre."

Bailiffs recover £21m

COUNCILS in Staffordshire and the Black Country called in bailiffs to collect debts of more than £21 million in the last two and a half years, new figures show.

From 2015, six local authorities used debt collectors on 161,471 occasions, with council tax arrears accounting for 65 per cent of cases.

A Freedom of Information request provided figures for the four Black Country councils, Lichfield District Council and South Staffordshire District Council. Labour-controlled Walsall Council used bailiffs 48,733 times from April 2015 to December 2017, the figures showed, bringing in a total of £5.97m. Council tax accounted for 73 per cent of cases, while bailiffs were also sent out to collect arrears from parking fines and business rates.

Sandwell Council, which is also Labour, sent out debt collectors on 40,716 occasions over the same period. Dudley Council was under Labour control until May last year when the Tories took over. It sent out bailiffs 30,688 times to collect £7.4m.

Another Labour authority, Wolverhampton City Council, used bailiffs on 34,620 occasions to recover £4m worth of debts. Tory run Lichfield District Council used bailiffs 2,903 times to collect £2.1m, and South Staffordshire District Council brought in £1.46m from 3,811 bailiff visits.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Carnival team in talent search

GREAT Wyrley Carnival's Got Talent Competition is being held on Sunday, March 4 at 6pm at Harrisons Sports and Social Club in Wharwell Lane.

Competitors must reside in Great Wyrley or Cheslyn Hay or attend local schools and can be any age or any level of talent. Application forms are available by calling 01922 414647.

Racecourse has right acoustics

THE Acoustic Festival of Britain will be back at Uttoxeter Racecouse from June 1 to 3 with a line-up that includes former Dire Straits member John Illsley, Steve Harley of Cockney Rebel, and Chris Difford of Squeeze.

There will also be comedians, a blues tent and real ale being served. For tickets visit acousticfestival.co.uk

Reg to present a nostalgic trip

VILLAGERS can go back in time at a Heath Hayes church next weekend.

Memorabilia and photographs of yesteryear will be provided by poet and local historian Reg Fulleove, aka 'Aer Reg', for the nostalgia event at Bourne Methodist Chapel, Hednesford Road, from midday to 4pm on Saturday, March 3.

Tea at fire station

AN afternoon tea is being held at Cannock Community Fire Station in Old Hednesford Road on March 8 between 1.30pm and 3.30pm when people can hear about cancer support services that are available in Staffordshire.

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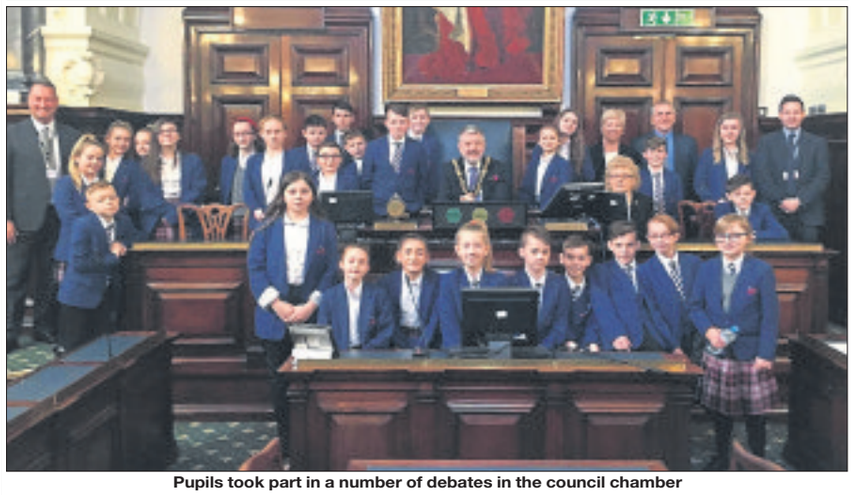
Visit to council gets students' vote



Pupils took part in a number of debates in the council chamber

HEDNESFORD schoolchildren were treated to a VIP tour of the building at the very heart of local democracy – complete with a debate in the council chambers and a 'ghost walk'.

Year 7 students from Staffordshire University Academy were taken behind the scenes of the County Buildings in Stafford, hosted by Hednesford county councillors Phil Hewitt and Bryan Jones. They were given a full tour of the impressive rooms, and guide Janet Ferguson entertained them with stories of ghosts said to haunt the buildings.

The students then debated three topics in the chamber itself, chaired by county council chairman Michael Greatorex, who was accompanied by consort Moira Greatorex.

Academy vice-principal Sean Andrews, who accompanied the students, said: "All of the students have spoken highly of the visit, they particularly enjoyed the debating."

Bar date for champion

George Groves

FRESH from his victory over Chris Eubank Jnr, champion George Groves is heading to Cannock for an 'evening with' event.

Groves successfully defended his WBA world super middleweight title, and took Eubank Jnr's IBO belt, on points at the weekend.

And fans will have the chance to see and hear from 'Saint George' at an exclusive evening at the Premier Suite above Bar Sport in High Green on March 22.

He will be joined by boxing pundit Steve 'Big Daddy' Bunce and former super middleweight champion of the world Richie Woodhall. The evening will include a five-course meal, a comedian, a Q&A and the opportunity for photographs.

Bar Sport boss Scott Murray tweeted his congratulations to Groves saying: "Such a great win tonight."

Tickets are available by calling 01543 572092.

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Staff delighted at showroom award

STAFF at Cannock-based company All Weather Leisure are 'ecstatic' after collecting a gold award at the British Pool & Hot Tub Awards.

The accolade, presented at the awards ceremony for the 'wet leisure' industry, was handed over for winning the Showroom of the Year category organised by the British and Irish Spa and Hot Tub Association (BISHTA).

Co-hosted by the Swimming Pool and Allied Trades Association, the presentations took place at the Ricoh Arena, in Coventry. Liam Shelley of All Weather Leisure Midlands said: "We are ecstatic to have received such a high accolade. We only recently joined BISHTA and moved to our new showroom in 2017 so to be recognised with a gold BISHTA award for the Showroom of the Year is an incredible achievement. We are a family-run business, and our whole team strives for excellence."

Firm fined £500,000 after worker hit by truck lost leg

A BUILDING firm has been fined £500,000 after a worker was run over by a tipper truck, resulting in him having his lower leg amputated.

The man was seriously injured after being struck on a housing development at Burntwood Business Park.

An investigation found a number of tipper trucks were delivering material to the site at the time, and various ground workers were directing the drivers to different areas. The injured man was walking along a temporary haul road when he was hit.

He suffered several broken bones in both legs and feet as well as severe damage to the blood vessels in his legs. His right leg was amputated to the knee a year after the incident in October 2015.

The Health & Safety Executive (HSE) ruled there were insufficient protected walkways across the site and that there was no control over access to the site. Birmingham-based civil engineering contractor MV Kelly of Tyseley, Birmingham, was also ordered to pay costs of £30,000 after pleading guilty to breaching safety regulations.

HSE inspector Katherine Blunt said after the hearing: "Incidents like this should never be allowed to take place. Construction sites should be organised in a way which prevents pedestrians and vehicles coming into contact with each other. This incident resulted in a worker sustaining life-changing injuries."

Friends group make it 'snappy' on walk

THE Friends of Cannock Chase photography group are holding a 'two to three-mile wander' on Saturday.

Everyone taking part will have the chance to take photographs during the walk, which will begin at the Canalside farm shop in Great Haywood at 2pm.

The route will follow the canal, then across Essex Bridge onto the Staffordshire Way footpath, which gives excellent views of Shugborough Hall.

"Bring your camera or just come along and meet new friends," Friends spokesman June Jukes said.

"Note that the meeting place is changed from the Friend's programme.

"Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear bearing in mind the path may be muddy in places."

For more information about this walk or the Friends of Cannock Chase, call June Jukes on 01543 571241.

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£5m building reaches milestone

THE construction of a £5.6 million building at the National Memorial Arboretum has reached a milestone with the installation of the steelwork structure.

Contractor Stepnell, which has its regional base at Kidderminster, put into position the five-metre high steel frame of the new events space at the memorial site. The building, set for completion in August, will be known as Aspects.

It will complement the Arboretum's award-winning £15.7m Remembrance Centre which opened in October 2016 and was also built by Stepnell. The construction team will now move on to completing the roofing and walls and fitting out of the single-storey events building, designed by Glenn Howells Architects.

It features two walls made entirely of glass and a rear terrace providing views over the 150-acre Arboretum grounds as well as light-coloured timber cladding.

The construction of the building has reached a milestone with the installation of the steelwork structure

Fake box-sets racket costs fraudster £600k

A FRAUDSTER who was caught buying and selling thousands of bogus DVDs has been ordered to pay back more than £567,000.

Paul Foster imported fake box sets of hit TV series from China and had them delivered to his home in Penkridge, before selling them to customers worldwide on ebay.

The 53-year-old had been sentenced to 16 months' imprisonment in January 2016 after he pleaded guilty to one offence of fraudulent trading and nine offences infringing the Trade Marks Act (1994) in November 2015.

At the confiscation hearing, at Stafford Crown Court, Foster was ordered to pay back £567,000 in proceeds of crime money along with prosecution costs of £36,858.72. Despite it being his first offence, on sentencing Foster to 16 months Judge Mark Eades cited the scale of his deception.

Stafford Crown Court – hearing

The court heard that Foster had been a legitimate trader selling films from 1998 until July 2014. But he then shifted to a 'large scale' fraud operation which began to unravel after three months when a courier reported concerns about packages delivered to Foster's home in Walhouse Drive, Mr Tony Watkin, prosecuting, said.

A subsequent package was intercepted and found to contain 815 bogus DVD box sets. Foster was reported to Staffordshire Trading Standards, which searched the address and recovered 1,816 box sets – including 54 different titles including Downton Abbey, Mr Selfridge, and House of Cards – worth about £40,000.

Investigators trawled through Foster's emails, which showed that he had sourced the products from China and made orders totalling more than £8,500. Via ebay he recorded sales totalling around £60,000.

Adrian the new face at agency

STAFFORDSHIRE-BASED public relations agency 8848 Communications has appointed a new creative director.

Adrian Wilde, who has more than 20 years' experience in the creative services industry, joins the senior team at Aspley Farm, Slade Heath, to support its client portfolio.

Mr Wilde

"I'm looking forward to helping to build the agency's presence and working with both new and existing clients," he said.

Hazel Crawford, managing director at 8848, said: "He has a fantastic mix of both brand and multi-channel delivery experience that is just right for our growing client portfolio."

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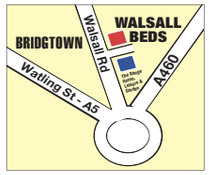

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Still pals . . . 60 years after their Army days

'IT shaped us for the rest of our lives.' Sixty years down the line, that is how four friends who met doing National Service summed up their training.

Reg Smith, Graham Page, Cliff Easthope and Steve Furnival were thrown together in Lichfield in 1958 when they were all aged 19. And the friendship forged during their eight weeks of training at Whittington Barracks has lasted the test of time.

They spent time in post-war Germany and then the Far East together.

Now the group of pals have marked six decades of friendship with a meal.

Mr Easthope, from Tipton, said: "We all first met up in February 1958 in Lichfield, that's where we started our training.

From left, Cliff, Steve, Graham and, seated, Reg, with an Army keepsake, celebrating 60 years as pals

Cliff, third left, Reg next to him and, second from right, Graham, in 1959

Helped

"I remember getting off the train from Tipton or Wolverhampton and Steve got off the train coming from Stoke. The sergeant shouted our names out and we got onto a lorry together and we've been mates ever since. When we got into the barracks, there were 30 of us there.

"About 10 of us stuck together all the way through – it was just great.

"I wouldn't have changed it for anything. And I think everyone would say that it helped them in life.

"There were definitely hard times, but you never think of them – you only think of the good times."

After nearly two months of training, the four pals joined up with the South Staffordshire Regiment's First Battalion proper – Mr Easthope and Mr Furnival in A Company and Mr Page and Mr Smith in C Company. They travelled to Germany and were stationed in Luneburg before returning home. On their return in late 1958 the North and South Staffs Regiments amalgamated to become the Staffordshire Regiment. The new combined regiment consisted of active soldiers only, so men doing National Service were forced to move to another unit.

Needing to serve another year to complete their training, the quartet were transferred to the Cheshire Regiment, and sent to the Far East, spending a year in Singapore and Malaya.

Stoke resident Mr Furnival – the only one of the four not to have come from the Black Country –left as a full corporal, with his colleagues all Privates. The four have remained close and have travelled abroad with their wives, who are also now friends.

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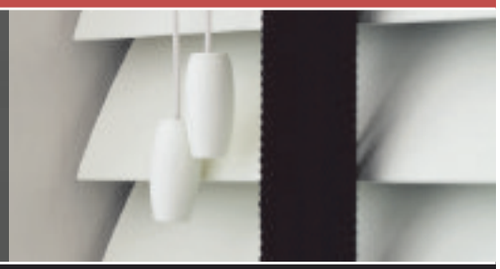

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Thieves set their sights on trendy Fiat models

THEY'RE the souped-up version of a trendy modern classic – and now thieves have started targeting them.

Nine Abarth 595s, a performance model of the Fiat 500 priced from £17,000, were stolen in the Black Country in January.

Another standard Fiat 500 was taken from a house in Stafford.

News of the thefts was made public by victims, many of whom said their vehicles were taken without keys or the windows having been smashed.

Police recently highlighted the use of relay devices that push signals from electronic car keys to vehicles parked outside, and thieves have made use of the hi-tech gadgets to steal valuable cars without having to force entry. West Midlands Police confirmed that nine Abarths 595s had been stolen in the Black Country in the first month of this year.

Safety

But a spokesman for the force, which is investigating all of the reported thefts, said the crimes were not being linked. Simon Williams, spokesman for the RAC Foundation, said the appeal of the high-powered Abarth 595 may mean that criminals were stealing them to order.

Away from the Black Country, Stephen and Denise Scotts, of Witney Road, Stafford, had their Fiat 500 stolen from their drive in December. Mr Scotts said: "I'm not sure what is going on, but it seems the car is being targeted."

Justin Westnedge, from Abarth UK, said: "The Abarth 595 is being constantly upgraded for safety and security as the model continues production."

The spokesman for West Midlands Police added: "It is always worth speaking to a main dealer, to ensure that a car has had all the latest software updates and talk through security concerns with them."

New addition Kitty hits her stride on the Chase

Kitty gallops over Cannock Chase *Picture: Firefoot Photography*

CANNOCK Chase is bathed in winter sunshine as former model Lisa Gregory enjoys a moorland gallop with her new horse Kitty.

Miss Gregory, who now owns Cannock Chase Trekking Centre, near Penkridge, was putting Kitty through her paces as the latest addition to her 46-strong team of horses.

Kitty is a Friesian, a breed of horse often used in TV and film work because of their dramatic looks and paces. "She is an internet sensation already," said Miss Gregory.

"As soon as we put her on our Facebook page, people were arriving to see her. I have always wanted a Friesian, and our clients are going to love riding her."

Miss Gregory set up her original trekking centre in 1995 before opening a new ranch-style welcome centre in 2016.

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£500k grant for cycling project

NEW research shows it could cost as little as £23 per person to ease the burden of treating obesity illnesses in the West Midlands region.

Every year, the NHS spends around £5.1 billion treating illnesses directly attributable to obesity – equating to around £77 per person in the UK.

But a cycling development project run by Cycling UK, and funded by the Department for Transport (DfT), resulted in 18,500 people cycling more regularly last year – for a cost of £23.81 per person.

The DfT has announced it will be funding the Big Bike Revival project for a fourth year with a £500,000 grant.

Paul Tuohy, chief executive of Cycling UK, said: "More people cycling can only have a positive impact on our environment. Every year, it's estimated that air pollutions costs the UK economy up to £10 billion."

Council bosses break silence on future of historic hall

COUNCIL bosses have broken months of silence over a historic building to reveal that an independent expert will assess proposals for the site.

It comes after campaigners called for clarity on what was happening with the Grade II* listed Shire Hall in Market Square, Stafford, which dates back to the 1790s and shut last July.

The first proposals for the building, which includes a courtroom and holding cells and was most recently used as a library and art gallery, went forward to the Princes Regeneration Trust (PRT) in August.

Suggestions included the nation's first women's museum, an art gallery and a Royal Air Force museum.

Campaigners were promised an update by November after a meeting was held two months earlier but have not heard anything until now.

Councillor Mark Winnington, Staffordshire County Council's cabinet member for economic growth, said: "We want a solution that will work over many years, so we will appoint an independent expert to look closely at these ideas and others, to examine their feasibility and financial viability."

The PRT report can be viewed on the county council's website after the campaign groups rallied together and urged for it to be published.

The Shire Hall is still being heated, and caretakers regularly maintain it while it is closed.

'New arrival' offers advice for parents

THERE will be plenty of baby talk on the way as a new arrival is expected in Staffordshire.

The Pregnancy and Baby Fair is launching at the Staffordshire County Showground on June 23 and 24 giving parents access to discounts on products for 'bump, baby and beyond', advice from parenting experts, taster sessions from leading baby and toddler classes and workshops on breastfeeding and infant first aid.

There will also be family-friendly facilities including catering, feeding and changing areas, a fully kitted out playroom, animal and craft corners and competitions.

"We are really excited to be launching in Staffordshire," said managing director Katie Hilton.

The inaugural event will be open between 10am and 4pm on both days. 'Early bird' tickets are available at www.thepregnancyandbabyfair.co.uk

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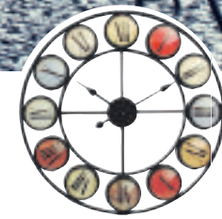
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2,700 jobs on way in i54 plan

THOUSANDS of jobs are in the pipeline as part of a a huge planned expansion of the i54 business park.

The sprawling site, which is already home to Jaguar Land Rover, is poised to grow even bigger delivering up to 2,700 more jobs and attracting £600 million worth of investment.

The latest 100-acre extension to the i54 would cut into green belt land.

Plans for the development of the first 60 acres – owned by Wolverhampton City Council – between Wobaston Road, Pendeford Hall Lane and the current i54 site are expected to go before South Staffordshire Council in the spring.

If passed the combined Wolverhampton and Staffordshire councils plan will deliver an estimated 1,500 jobs in high-value manufacturing. The other 40 acres, owned by Severn Trent's Midlands Land Portfolio, is to be part of a separate application at a later date.

Wolverhampton councillor John Reynolds, left, and Staffordshire County Council leader Philip Atkins at the extension site

Manufacturer seals record export deal

A BURNTWOOD company has completed its biggest export deal to date, supplying Pakistan with 13 medical waste incinerators.

Addfield Environmental Systems' machinery ensures the complete destruction of harmful waste while significantly reducing its negative environmental impact.

Set for delivery and commissioning this year, these machines will have a dramatic impact on the environment in Pakistan while also creating jobs and reducing strain on the medical system. Visible improvements have already been seen in areas where similar incinerators have been installed.

Export business for Addfield, based on the Burntwood Business Park, has soared during the past three years, increasing from 30 per cent of turnover to over 65 per cent.

Managing director Steve Lloyd with the Addfield MP500 medical incinerator

The company now exports to 95 countries and predicts this will grow by as much as 50 per cent in the next two years. This order is the latest export success for Addfield, which has worked with the Department for International Trade (DIT) for the last five years as it launched a strategic plan to increase its overseas contracts.

The business now supplies to a number of health organisations and government bodies across the world including Senegal, Cambodia, Nigeria, Guinea and Mexico.

There is currently a renewed focus on the importance of strong biosecurity measures around waste generated by clinics, pharmacies and hospitals in many countries and agencies following viral outbreaks including Ebola.

A spokesman for Addfield said the firm has made use of the full spectrum of DIT support to focus their export plans, which includes attending workshops and masterclasses.

Company launches video aid

A CHESLYN HAY company has tapped into the thirst for digital marketing by launching three new videos designed to debate the benefits of strategic outsourcing.

PP Control & Automation, based at Landywood Green, supplies electrical control systems, cable harnesses and sub-contract manufacturing solutions to machinery builders.

It has used the power of animation to talk potential customers through the process and how it can help them increase capacity, reduce lead times and mitigate the risk of fluctuating sales.

Videos are between 90 and 150 seconds long and are available via the company's website and through its social media channels.

For further information, visit www.ppcanda.com

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An extra £5 million to tackle potholes

HIGHWAYS bosses in Staffordshire will spend £5 million tackling potholes throughout the county in the year ahead.

The county council spent £5 million in 2017-18 which chiefs said helped repair 35,000 potholes – compared with 20,000 in a typical year. Last week, county council bosses backed plans to spend the same amount in 2018-19.

The cash for road repairs has been revealed as part of the authority's latest budget, which will see council tax rise by 5.95 per cent.

Council leader Philip Atkins said: "Although our highways crews have been focusing on keeping us safely on the move after a chilly start to February, they will soon be turning their attention to tackling potholes across the county, which of course are always more noticeable at this time of year due to the impact of the weather.

"I can confirm that we will once again be investing a further £5 million in this coming year and our highways teams will be out in force once again from the spring." Figures last year

By David Cosgrove

showed that a total of 11,256 potholes were reported in the county in 2016-17, with the authority paying out £117,238 in compensation.

Hotspots have included Five Ways Island in Heath Hayes, where £220,000 has been spent on resurfacing the road.

The council tax rise of 5.95 per cent includes a three per cent 'ring-fenced precept to be spent on social care – and means an overall rise of around £1.30 per week in county council tax on a Band D property.

As part of the budget, bosses have also agreed to invest £310m this year on care of the elderly, people with learning disabilities and children in care.

Carl is hooked on his new premises

Carl Burgess outside his new shop, Cannock Angling Centre, at High Green Court

HIGH Green Court in Cannock town centre has landed a new tenant – Cannock Angling Centre.

The business, which specialises in fishing tackle equipment, has become a successful venture over the last five years but was unable to continue trading at its old premises in Chaseside Drive.

Carl Burgess, who started the business in 2013 with £30, was faced with possibly having to close down but then found there was a unit available at High Green Court.

"The news that we could carry on and move into a location with such high footfall was extremely positive for us and our loyal customers," he said. "It's been great to see new and existing customers coming to visit."

Chris Salmon, asset manager for High Green Court, said: "We're so pleased to welcome an established business to High Green Court, and I'd urge anyone who wants to start their own business to enquire about letting a unit here.

"Cannock has recently been experiencing a wealth of new investment with new businesses opening throughout the town centre."

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Smooth operators! Staff raise £4k in head shave

Scott Wharton, Kieron Wood, Avril John, Sam Smith and Joshua Dawson *Picture: Tim George*

THOUSANDS of pounds was raised when staff at Amazon in Rugeley braved the shave.

The four men and one woman were 'delighted' with the £4,000 they raised for St Giles Hospice. Donations were collected on the day and online.

Josh Dawson, area manager in the receiving department at Amazon in Rugeley, suggested the idea as part of the company's community programme. Among those taking partwas general manager Scott Wharton.

He said: "Everyone at Amazon in Rugeley has been fantastically supportive of our efforts to raise some money for St Giles Hospice.

"The hospice does important work in the area.

"It's an honour for us to show our support for them, and I'm delighted that the team here has really got behind the fundraising."

Phillippa Graty from St Giles Hospice said: "I'd like to thank everyone at Amazon in Rugeley for their contribution to St Giles. Our charity relies on donations from the public and from organisations like Amazon, so it's vitally important for us to have this support from Scott and his team."

Scott Wharton in the chair

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£999**	£199	£17,716	£13,217	NIL	£5,415
FINANCE DEPOSIT ALLOWANCE	**TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE**	**ANNUAL MILEAGE**	**DURATION OF AGREEMENT**	**FIXED RATE OF INTEREST**	**REPRESENTATIVE APR (FIXED)**
£3,500†	£19,267	5,000*	48 MONTHS	4.12%	4.2%

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Representative Finance Example

CUSTOMER DEPOSIT	47 MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF	CASH PRICE	AMOUNT OF CREDIT	FEES	GUARANTEED MINIMUM FUTURE VALUE
£999**	£249	£20,867	£18,668	NIL	£9,286
FINANCE DEPOSIT ALLOWANCE	**TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE**	**ANNUAL MILEAGE**	**DURATION OF AGREEMENT**	**FIXED RATE OF INTEREST**	**REPRESENTATIVE APR (FIXED)**
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£5,000 grant to secure Citizens Advice for year

Charities and organisations from Hednesford are presented with their grants *Picture: John Kraujalis*

TOWN councillors have committed £5,000 of funds to ensure that Citizens Advice can continue to offer its services in Hednesford for another 12 months.

The announcement was made at a special event at which Hednesford Town Council handed 21 grants totalling £5,000 to local charities and organisations.

Derek Davis, finance committee chairman, said: "We are delighted to confirm funding for another year for this vital service, which helps the most vulnerable in our community. It is a wonderful facility that does good work in helping many local people."

Among the cheques presented to groups was one for £354 for the Community Speedwatch Group in North Hednesford, which is helping to fight the problem of speeding traffic along roads, including Green Heath Road, Pye Green Road and Bradbury Road. The money will pay for specialist monitoring equipment.

A £700 donation was handed to Chadsmoor Tapestry Group, for its work on producing a tapestry depicting Hednesford landmarks, while Brindley Village Legacy Group was presented with £500.

Chase Parkinson's Group received £200; the Friends of Hednesford Park £250; Heart of Hednesford, had £300 to enable it to continue looking after the Miners' Memorial and other local landmarks; St Peter's Church was given £500, which will go towards its access improvements; and Hednesford in Partnership, the umbrella body for the voluntary sector, received £550.

Katherine House Hospice and Hednesford Town FC Supporters each received £100 while Greenheath FC received £300.

Hednesford Probus and the Ladies Social groups received donations in kind of £352 and £700 respectively, which will be in lieu of room hire at Pye Green Community Centre, where they meet every week. Schools and organisations that took part in the Christmas event received cheques – £100 each to Hednesford Valley High School, Staffordshire University Academy, Kingsmead, St Peter's, Pye Green Academy and West Hill Primary schools; and Burntwood Rotary.

Hednesford Lions received £200.

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The Clangers - proving very popular

Fozzie Bear – always smiling

Thunderbirds' Lady Penelope and Parker

Anne Quinton, from the gallery with Zippy and George from Rainbow

The Adventures of Rupert Bear

Boom! Boom! It's Basil Brush

Bagpuss taking pride of place

Elliott Edwards with the Prince Charles puppet from Spitting Image

Puppet masters pop up in city

COME and see some of the most famous faces ever to appear on TV for free – no strings attached.

The one and only Bagpuss, Fozzie Bear from The Muppets, several Clangers, world-famous Thunderbirds Lady Penelope and Parker (M'lady) – and even Basil Brush (Boom! Boom!) have gone on show at Wolverhampton Art Gallery.

They're all in town as part of a major new exhibition looking at 80 years of puppets on TV. And as well as seeing these legends of the screen in the flesh – sorry, cloth – there's a host of fascinating facts and trivia on offer.

For instance, did you know that Bagpuss was originally meant to have orange stripes, but the fabric shop delivered pink material by accident.

As for the Clangers, the scripts were written in English then performed on swannee whistles to translate into the distinctive Clanger language. The free display runs until April 29 and is already drawing big crowds to the Lichfield Street venue.

The exhibition is split into two parts, with one room displaying pieces from the 'Clangers, Bagpuss & Co tour' from the V&A Museum of Childhood. An adjoining room shows pieces from the exhibition 'TV Puppets: Icons From 80 Years of Entertainment'.

Among the gems on show is an original set and characters from Cloppa Castle and a genuine 1952 Muffin the Mule marionette. There are also characters from Noggin the Nog and animation exhibitions behind Ivor the Engine. The collection was brought together by Michael Dixon, of the National Puppetry Archive who also works for the City of Wolverhampton College.

Zippy and George from Rainbow, Prince Charles' Spitting Image doll and Soko, the first puppet ever made for TV in 1930, also feature in the exhibition.

Visitors can revisit their childhood free of charge through viewing the colourful creations, as part of the display curated in partnership with the National Puppetry Archive.

Cultural exhibition programmer at the gallery Carol Thompson said people of all ages had been marvelling at the puppets.

She said: "People are absolutely loving it. You see them walking around just going 'wow'.

"All ages too. It's just so nostalgic. It's an absolute delight."

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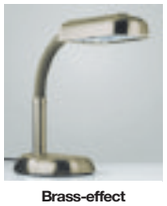

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Final chance to comment

THE final consultation on how Hednesford might look in the future has been launched.

Hednesford Town Council has submitted a neighbourhood plan to Cannock Chase Council, which is now asking for observations from the general public.

The plan, which is used to help determine planning applications and other related decisions, has undergone previous rounds of public consultation led by the town council.

This is the last stage before it is submitted to an independent examiner. To view the submitted Hednesford Neighbourhood Plan and associated documents, go to www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/planningpolicy and look under 'latest news'.

Hard copies of the documents are also available (for reference only) at Cannock Chase Council's Civic Centre reception, Hednesford Town Council's office at Pye Green Community Centre, and Hednesford Library during normal office opening hours.

The consultation period runs for six weeks until March 26.

'Risk to safety' fears over A&E transfer delays

AMBULANCE crews had to wait more than an hour to hand over patients to A&E at one hospital on more than 450 occasions in a month. The situation at Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley during the month of December has dramatically worsened year-on-year.

In December 2017, there were 458 instances when it took more than an hour for paramedics to drop off patients at the hospital. This compares with 151 in December 2016, and three in December 2015. The process of handing over a patient to a hospital should take 15 minutes, according to the Government.

West Midlands Ambulance Service chief executive Anthony Marsh said the delays were putting the safe running of his organisation at risk as it means paramedics can be stuck at a hospital while an emergency incident requiring them takes place.

Russells Hall was not the only hospital in the Black Country and Staffordshire where the handover of patients was badly delayed.

At Walsall Manor Hospital, there were 110 incidents of handovers taking more than an hour in December, but this was down from 160 the previous year.

There were 86 instances at New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton and 14 at Sandwell General Hospital.

At Royal Stoke Hospital, there were 131 incidents, and at County Hospital in Stafford there were 12.

In a report to the ambulance service board, Mr Marsh said: "Patient handover delays at hospital is the single biggest factor that jeopardises the delivery of a safe ambulance service for people in the West Midlands." Karen Kelly, chief operating officer at the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Russells Hall Hospital, said: "We always prioritise all patients who need urgent medical attention according to their clinical need."

New art classes to mark anniversary

Henrietta Ellis, left, and Celia Houghton

AN art school for children is celebrating its fifth anniversary by staging activities for adults as well as youngsters.

Henhouse Art School in Lichfield is run by local artists Celia Houghton and Henrietta Ellis who run Saturday classes for young children and teenagers and monthly baby/toddler sessions in the community room at the city's Tesco.

To mark the milestone, starting on Wednesday, February 28, there will be monthly Prosecco and a Paintbrush sessions at McKenzie's restaurant in Lichfield where adults can create their own version of famous artwork by one of the Great Masters or a more contemporary one.

"Henrietta and I were surprised to realise we were five years old this year, the time has flown by," Celia said.

"We started up slowly with just a handful of students and have gradually built it up over time, creating more opportunities for people to be creative."

For more information about Henhouse Art School and its activities, visit www.henhouseart.co.uk

Raid on Co-op

THREE men in balaclavas and beanie hats broke into the Co-op in Morley Road, Burntwood, at 10.45pm on Thursday but fled when the security system filled the shop with smoke. They drove off in a black Audi.

New record at museum

THE Black Country Living Museum celebrated its busiest year ever in 2017.

More than 330,000 visitors went through the doors of the museum last year – up eight per cent on its previous record attendance.

The museum, in Tipton Road, Dudley, welcomed 332,778 people and bosses have thanked all those who visited. In 2016 the museum welcomed 306,100 visitors.

Costa drive-thru opens on M6 Toll

A NEW £500,000 Costa drive-thru has opened at Norton Canes, creating 10 jobs. Roadchef has opened thye outlet on the M6 Toll services between junctions 6 and 7.

The new positions include customer services, trained baristas and management roles. It will be joining a sit-down Costa, McDonald's, LEON, WHSmith, Spar and Fresh Food Cafe already at the services.

Liane Stubbs, Site Director for Norton Canes, said: "The new offering allows motorists the convenience of picking up a delicious Costa coffee all from the comfort of their car."

● A Costa drive-thru will be built at the Stafford North services between junctions 14 and 15 of the M6 after Stafford Borough Council gave the development the green light.

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Yesterday's rubbish – tomorrow's antiques?

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES

with John Ridgway of Perry & Phillips

I HAVE talked about vintage bottles in this column before – but I thought this week we would re-visit the subject as we have an especially unusual one coming up for sale in our next auction!

Found buried in a south Shropshire river bank some years ago this William and Mary brandy bottle is in amazing condition for its age and is bound to catch the eye of collectors.

But much more humble examples also sell well and are currently to be found featured in the pages of popular design magazines

Bottles look good almost anywhere in the home, from the hallway and kitchen to a dining room or home office.

Old wine bottles make great single-stem vases and coloured ones look really attractive displayed in a group.

Perfume bottles are a collector's favourite and are much sought after not only for their particular age or make but also for their shapes - they look lovely in a bedroom or bathroom.

Generally speaking, look out for unusual shapes and colours, I've seem some very beautiful bottles that originated in other countries and probably contained liqeurs.

Champagne bottles make very nice candles holders – go for the labels this time, Bollinger and Veuve Clicquot – and old glass inkwells, although not strictly 'bottles', are idea displayed in a home office or used as pen holders.

Medicine bottles always attract attention from saleroom bidders, we sold a large collection last year, and again these look good in a bathroom.

Stoneware bottles dating from the Victorian and Edwardian era are perfect for a kitchen, look out for the branded ones, they are especially collectable.

Old bottles in good condition are fairly plentiful and this is largely because they would have been discarded in rubbish tips long before the days or recycling and therefore remained relatively undamaged – yesterday's refuse can be today's antiques.

Having said that, as with all vintage items check bottles carefully for any cracks or chips before you buy.

And of course, you could just buy an old bottle in which to send a message – it might just reach its destination!

*** The next Perry and Phillips sale of antiques and collectables will take place at the Mill Street saleroom, Low Town, Bridgnorth on Tuesday, April 3, from 10.30am.**

Viewing is during the weekend and on the Monday prior to the sale and catalogues are available from the saleroom or online at www.perryandphillips.co.uk. Newcomers to the auction should arrive in plenty of time to register and be allocated a bidding number and bids may be made (by prior arrangement) over the phone or left with the auctioneer.

*** Perry and Phillips hold valuation days, for sale items only, every Wednesday from 10am until 4pm.**

*** A new promotional film about Perry and Phillips Auctioneers can be found on our website.**

School uniforms are rooted in our history

Uniforms help children look smart

LOVE them or hate them, most of us have worn a school uniform at some time in our lives.

My secondary school had grey woollen blazers trimmed in emerald green, grey pleated, knee length skirts and a pill box hat that went missing on my first day.

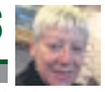
It is widely believed that wearing a uniform improves the way students learn and their behaviour at school, it also differentiates between students and any strangers that may be in the school grounds and helps to reduce victimisation linked to what someone is wearing or their social status.

Today there is consideration for gender free uniform and many schools include rules such as skirt length, shirts tucked in and sock colour.

There is no legislation that deals specifically with school uniforms, a school's uniform policy is generally the responsibility of the board of governors with guidance from education authorities.

Gov.uk states "Each school decides its uniform and must not discriminate based on gender, race, disability, sexual orientation or

STYLE FOCUS



with Janet Timmis

belief. The head teacher can discipline your child for not wearing the school uniform. Your child can be suspended or expelled if they repeatedly ignore the uniform rules. Schools can also decide if girls can wear trousers, or if religious dress is allowed."

In the United Kingdom school uniforms date back to the 16th century, the first was thought to be Christ Hospital School in London in 1552.

Students at Eton, the private school in Berkshire, wore top hats and tail coats right up until 1972, they still have a strict uniform policy.

The school uniform market is worth hundreds of millions of pounds and recently the supermarkets have offered a wide choice of styles at low prices meaning primary school children can be kitted out more easily, reducing the financial implication to parents of younger children, especially as there is usually a winter and summer clothing requirement. Most schools and academies are selling the items that sport the official embroidered badge in house.

Africa is the largest wearer of school uniform, it thrives due to it's students feeling a sense of belonging but most countries around the world adopt uniform in some form.

A Japanese elementary school has recently introduced a new uniform designed by Georgio Armani and costing parents over £500.

Our children get a great sense of association and inclusion from wearing the same as their friends, being part of a team and getting used to the discipline and structure of rules and they look so smart too.

Lord Robert Baden-Powell, founder of the Scout movement said: "The uniform makes for brotherhood, since when universally adopted it covers up all differences of class and country."

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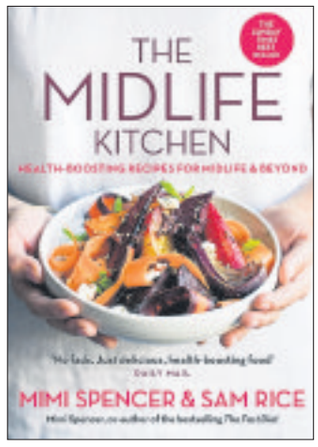
Ginger and pumpkin cheesecake from The Midlife Kitchen

Food writer friends Mimi Spencer and Sam Rice in the kitchen

How to cook, eat and live well as the years tick by



The Midlife Kitchen by Mimi Spencer and Sam Rice is published by Mitchell Beazley, priced £16.99

THE key to really eating well, and not forcing yourself to eat sad salad after sad salad – particularly when you hit the mid-life stage – is to focus on taste and flavour above everything.

By Ella Walker

Well, this is what cookbook authors Mimi Spencer, 50, and Sam Rice, 48, believe: "Just because something is healthy, you don't have to eat it – we'd rather get our greens fix from a nice watercress soup than a wheatgrass shot."

The food writer friends first met at the school gates and are now celebrating the paperback version of their recipe collection, The Midlife Cookbook, which dishes up recipes big on taste as well as nutrition, targeted for those facing middle-age.

What made you tackle the middle chunk of life in cookbook form?

When you hit midlife, it is often a time for reflection on where you are and what you still want to do with your life. We both came to realise the limiting factor for most people as they get older is their health. If you look after yourself, you can still look forward to a good, long healthspan (we prefer this term to lifespan), which is the number of fit, functional years ahead. So where better to start than with food?

What should people be most aware of nutrition-wise during this period of their life?

As we age, there are two key things that happen relating to food: First, we need fewer calories overall as our metabolism slows, and secondly, we become less efficient at digesting the food we do eat. In practical terms, we need to eat nutrient-dense foods in order to get adequate nutrition from fewer calories. Foods that fit the bill include plenty of colourful fruit and veg, eggs, full-fat yogurt, lean (mainly non-meat) protein and nuts and seeds. The trick is to get these ingredients onto your fork in the tastiest way possible.

How can people best shake up their approach to cooking and food?

Shift food and cooking up the priority list a little. We all have to eat, and so instead of seeing it as a time-consuming inconvenience, it's more helpful to view it as an important investment in ourselves.

How have your own tastes and attitudes to food changed with age?

It might sound strange, but where we once craved a creamy pasta, we now prefer an interesting salad, not because we are 'trying to be good', but because our palates have shifted and we are naturally drawn to more interesting flavours and textures. We've also found that investing a bit more time and thought in the food we prepare and eat has been a hugely positive thing, for our bodies, minds and social lives.

What do you feel when you cook?

For a long time, we were a bit resentful of the time we spent in the kitchen. When our kids were young, it was endless fish fingers and spag bol, so it really did seem like Groundhog Day. But now as midlifers, things have changed. Our kids are older, and we can cook more of what we want.

What most concerns you about fad diets and the so-called 'clean-eating brigade'?

What strikes us as bizarre with the recent wave of clean-eaters, is how what you eat is somehow linked to how good a human being you are. A lot of the language used is misleading and, in some cases, plain wrong. A green juice will not detox you, that is what your kidneys and liver are for.

Why, traditionally, do you think midlife has been relatively ignored?

Probably because the media has, for the longest time, been fixated with youth, Times have changed: Midlife is where the action is.

Cosford reports most RAF security breaches

Mayor on site for launch

From left, Councillor Janice Greaves, Martin Edwards and Carl Hopkins

THE mayor of Lichfield, Janice Greaves, donned a high-visibility jacket and hard hat to help lay the building blocks of a new retirement-living development in the city.

The VIP guest joined Martin Edwards of McCarthy and Stone and site manager Carl Hopkins to celebrate the start of construction.

Located in Cross Keys, the development will comprise 44 one and two-bedroom privately owned apartments designed for the over-60s. Apartments will be available to buy off plan this summer, with the first occupied early next year.

Councillor Greaves said: "Developments such as this are a great asset to the city, as they provide the perfect solution for people who are looking to enjoy an independent and active lifestyle in retirement."

RAF Cosford reported the most security breaches out of armed force bases in the region last year, new figures have revealed.

The base reported 81 'loss incidents' of ID cards in 2017 while in 2016 there were 36 loss incidents, one of disclosure, two of theft and one of unauthorised access at RAF Cosford.

The figures were releasedby the Ministry of Defence under a Freedom of Information request.

The MoD said the reason the statistics for loss increased in 2016-17 was due to a change in policy of how ID cards are reported and captured.

All incidents are subjected to an initial security risk assessment with further action taken on a proportionate basis, it added.

Disclosure means an incident where classified material potentially may have been disclosed in error and potentially seen by unauthorised persons.

Specific

Breach/contravention of security policy means potentially there may have been a breach of security policy as contained in MoD security policy publications.

The figures do not include cyber attacks as the MoD said it would not be in the interest of national security for departments to provide information about the specific number or type of cyber attacks being detected.

Patrick Laredo, an MoD spokesman, said: "We take the security of our sites very seriously and require all breaches to be reported. All incidents are investigated and further action is taken if necessary."

The relevant law relating to breaches depends on the individual circumstances.

Nationally, fears have previously been raised that Britain's military bases and assets are being left at 'unacceptable risk of attack' because of budget cuts.

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JAWS show their class with funky rock sound

JAWS, Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton

FIRST up, Synthetic Recipe kept their mates happy with covers of songs by Fall Out Boy, Nirvana, Neck Deep and Green Day.

But their closing song, an original entitled Method In The Madness, suggests they have a future beyond covers.

You can catch them tomorrow night (Friday) at the Slade Rooms with Blick Black and the Chillholers, Mayo and Override.

Tinned Astronaut went down a treat with an enthusiastic mosh pit thanks to their sudden gear changes and hard rock crescendos.

New song Silver Tongue was an instant hit with the crowd but the biggest response was for Upsetty Spaghetti.

Headliners JAWS come from Birmingham but this was a rare gig for them in Wolverhampton.

This outfit, formed at Halesowen College six years ago, stand shoulder to shoulder with more widely known bands like The 1975, Bombay Bicycle Club and Foals.

With their name literally up in lights behind them, JAWS oozed class with a funky rock sound festooned with chiming guitars.

They opened with the dream pop of Surround You followed by recent single Cast from album Simplicity.

They upped the pace for a high-energy finish with Just A Boy, Be Slowly and Gold.

Shrek (Steffan Harri) wakes Princess Fiona (Laura Main) *Picture: Helen Maybanks*

Ogre to Shrek's place for laugh-a-minute musical

REVIEWS

by Leon Burakowski

Shrek The Musical, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

OGRE the top and monstrously funny, Shrek The Musical is laugh-a-minute family fun. The DreamWorks animated movie hit, which was transformed into a Broadway and West End show, is back on stage in Birmingham and provides the ideal half-term treat.

The children in the audience delighted in the slapstick comedy, colourful costumes and special effects, whilst the grown-ups could chuckle at a witty script packed with digs at fairy tale conventions, occasional innuendo and surreal dance routines.

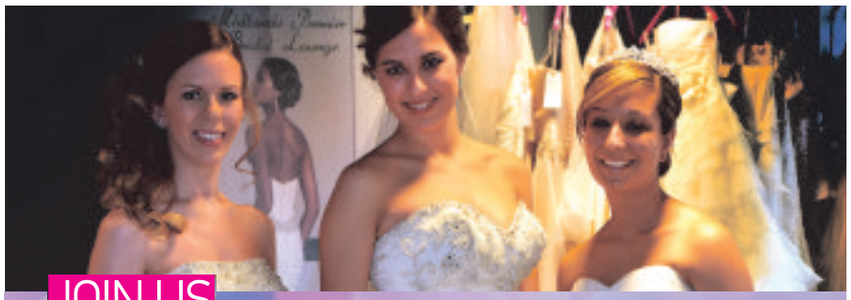
The story revolves around grumpy ogre Shrek and his quest to rescue the Princess Fiona. In return height-challenged tyrant Lord Farquaad promises to allow back into his kingdom of Duloc an assortment of fairy tale charactersthat were forced to become squatters in Shrek's swamp after their eviction. Along the way the big green fellow reluctantly accepts a talking donkey as his travelling companion.

Musical theatre fans can tick off cheeky references to famous musicals, including Wicked, Chicago, The Lion King and Les Miserables. This touring production has a cast that can really deliver the songs. Steffan Harri is in fine voice as our rotund hero. Laura Main is a fabulously feisty Princess Fiona, more than holding her own in a flatulence contest with Shrek – that scene is a big hit with the kids. Both are almost upstaged by Marcus Ayton as an ee-awesome Donkey, a singing dancing ass with sass.

Most laughs come from Samuel Holmes as the short-tempered Farquaad, scuttling across the stage and doing the most outrageous comic tricks with his little legs.

The actor is not three and half feet tall so one can assume he has sore knees by the end of the performance.

With a theme about acceptance of diversity and Shrek's poignant line that beautiful doesn't have to mean pretty, this is a feel good show with its heart in the right place. It ends in party mood with the audience joining the cast in a rendition of I'm A Believer. If you liked the movie, you'll love this show. Shrek is at the Alex until Sunday, February 25.



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X Factor's Brenda is nicest star in town

She's not in the least sniffy about her X Factory past. Brenda Edwards is thrilled that her ITV success helped catapult her into the world of entertainment – so that she still gets great roles now, though it's a dozen years since her appearance on the second series of the show, back in 2005.

Brenda's life changed forever when she entered The X Factor in 2005. She was the last woman standing in the semi-finals and left the audience and judges spellbound week after week before signing up for a 27-date X Factor UK arena tour.

The ultimate acceptance by the public came when Brenda was presented with the Screen Nation Award in 2007 for Favourite Reality TV Star, which was a people's choice award.

In 2006, Brenda was snapped up to play Mama Morton in Chicago the Musical in the West End. She received such great acclaim for her portrayal of the prison warden that she was asked back to play the role again after appearing in the 10th anniversary gala performance.

In 2007, Brenda created the role of Pearl Pastor in Carmen Jones at the Royal Festival Hall, performing with both the London and Royal Philharmonic orchestras.

"It's been an interesting ride," she says, a master of understatement.

She's on the road now with Hairspray, calling in at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from Monday to March 3.

"It's an amazing feeling to be part of the show. It's a great cast. It's nice to have fun and everybody is so supportive. That's what's needed when you're on the road and away from your family at home. It's nice that we all get on and we have fun."

The action in Hairspray is set in Baltimore in 1962 where Tracy Turnblad, a big girl with big hair and an even bigger heart, is on a mission to follow her dreams and dance her way onto national TV. Tracy's audition makes her a local star and soon she is using her new-found fame to fight for equality, bagging local heartthrob Link Larkin along the way. The show features the hit songs Welcome To The 60s, You Can't Stop The Beat, The Nicest Kids in Town and many more.

Brenda says: "It's an amazing feel-good show, but the things we're talking about are anything but feel-good. It was a time of racism and oppression but the musical doesn't shove that down your throat.

"There's an underlying message there which is serious and poignant, whether it's to do with sexism, ageism, religion or anything else. There is no other musical that covers so many topics.

"I've wanted to play this part for a long time. I auditioned for the West End, but I wasn't ready at the time because I was fresh from The X Factor. I wasn't successful then but it meant that I could go away and grow and come back with a real understanding of how to play the character. I hope I've achieved that.

"It's such a great role. She's very similar to me. I identify with her. The way she speaks her mind and she's a fighter and a strong lady. She has some amazing songs. I'm very lucky to be playing her."

She is respectful of the way The X Factor changed her career. It gave her a platform and she's used that to keep moving forward. "I didn't even know what I was looking to get out of it. I didn't think I'd win it or get as far as the live shows, to be honest. Having gone on the show and been in that bubble – and that's what it is – it's easy to be confused once you come out because you are just shielded from the outside world.

"It's only when you come out and are on your own that you have to have this strong determination to put it behind you and decide where to go next. I just kept singing in clubs and doing lots of gigs.

"I was in it for 11 weeks until the semi finals. I do believe I was one of the lucky ones. But you make your own luck and destiny. I wasn't put straight in for Chicago. I had to audition and I had five auditions for one role. It was very daunting. That was more frightening for me than my X Factor auditions."

Away from the stage, Brenda has faced battles of her own after being diagnosed with breast cancer. She made the brave decision to go public about that in the hope that her victory against the disease might inspire others.

Welcome to the 60s – Brenda Edwards in Hairspray

Sexism, ageism, religion – no other musical covers so many topics

"I didn't hide the breast cancer away because I wanted to be somebody that could try to help somebody else out there. That's why I came out there. I was aware that people would see me as someone in the public eye. I wanted to raise awareness for the cancer. I went through it when I was on the Hairspray tour the last time. That's another reason why I wanted to come back this time. It was such a strong network of support for me.

"I felt my breast and it turned out it was that. I caught it early and had chemo and it's not nice, it's horrible, I have side effects but I'm alive. I am thankful every single day. That's what makes me want to do this show. You don't know when your time will be up. I want to spread the joy and happiness. I want to help others. I want to empower others."

Andy Richardson

● **For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.**

Stereophonics – tenth album

Have a nice St David's Day with Stereophonics

ST DAVID'S Day will certainly have a Welsh flavour at Birmingham Genting Arena on Thursday (March 1) with Stereophonics in concert.

One of Britain's best live bands, the group formed in the South Wales village of Cwmaman 26 years ago and come to the venue toting their tenth studio album Scream Above The Sounds, follow up to 2015 chart-topper Keep The Village Alive.

Featuring singles Caught By The Wind and All In One Night, Scream Above The Sounds was primarily recorded at the band's west London HQ with the help of regular collaborator Jim Lowe. Frontman Kelly Jones says he aimed to write 'big anthemic songs', adding: "Every song offers a sense of release. Even when there's nostalgia, fear or anxiety, they're still all offering hope and room to manoeuvre."

Stereophonics consist of founders Kelly Jones (vocals/guitar) and Richard Jones (bass) along with Adam Zindani (guitar) and Jamie Morrison (drums). Keyboardist Tony Kirkham joins the band for live shows. Birmingham-born Zindani, former lead singer and guitarist with Brum band Casino, has been with Stereophonics for 11 years now. Morrison, from Huntingdon, previously played with Noisettes.

Stereophonics have been touring the globe and were one of the most regular performers at the V Festival. Their most popular tracks in a career that stretches back to 1997 debut Word Gets Around include Just Looking, Have A Nice Day, Madame Helga, Maybe Tomorrow, Dakota and C'est la Vie.

Family history inspires comedian

He's the comedian best known for football banter with Frank Skinner but David Baddiel's latest show is all about his family.

Baddiel's relationship with Black Country legend Frank was built around their love of The Beautiful Game. They were the poster boys of Euro '96, had a huge hit with Three Lions (with help from The Lightning Seeds) and attracted massive audiences to their witty Fantasy Football show.

Both had been successful comics beforehand. University of Cambridge educated Baddiel had an earlier successful partnership with Rob Newman, the first comedians to sell out Wembley Arena, while Frank came from the school of hard knocks before teaching and then comedy, going from Midlands to national fame. They remain close friends.

David says: "We're an odd couple, Frank and I. I saw him yesterday, we communed about the death of Mark E Smith. He was such a big fan of The Fall. I knew he'd be upset so I went to see him, he lives in my road. We used to live together and when he moved out he bought a house two doors down. He's now bought a house 100 doors down. It's a very expensive form of stalking."

My Family: Not the Sitcom is at Birmingham New Alexandra Theatre on February 28, Dudley Town Hall on April 19 and Stafford Gatehouse on May 19.

"I look at the fact that my mother, who was born in Nazi Germany, escaped from the regime by the skin of her teeth. The mad way she lived her life might have been rooted in that. Something about my mother speaks to me about a woman who knew she nearly didn't have a life and so lived it as a punch in the face to the Nazis."

Low or high times with Morrissey

Gig of the week has to be Morrissey, pictured, at the Genting Arena on Tuesday, although the former Smiths frontman has become a divisive figure. Last year's Low In High School album got a mixed reaction. Other highlights include The Blockheads with Derek 'The Draw' Hussey at the mic for the late Ian Dury at Bilston's Robin 2 tomorrow (Friday). Liverpool's All We Are are back with the excellent Sunny Hills album and a gig at the Hare and Hounds, Kings Heath, next Thursday.

Top comedy talent at Hippodrome gala

There's a funny couple of weeks ahead at Birmingham Hippodrome with lots of top comedians visiting.

There is a charity night on Wednesday with Luisa Omielan's Dead Funny Birmingham's Big Comedy Gala. Luisa from What Would Beyoncé Do?!, Comic Relief, Live at the Apollo and Thigh Gap! presents the coolest comics on the circuit for a one night bonanza. Confirmed guests include Sara Pascoe, Mo Gilligan, Iain Stirling, Tom Allen, Suzi Ruffell, Ellie Taylor, Tez Ilyas, Jen Brister, Aaron Twitchen and Dan Nightingale. All proceeds go to Helena's Hospice Foundation supporting hospices in the Midlands and nationwide.

Other laughter makers with shows at the Hippodrome include Sean Lock on Tuesday and Dara O'Briain for three consecutive nights from Thursday, March 1.

SATURDAY'S TV FEBRUARY 24

CHOICE

Ant & Dec

Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
(ITV, 7pm)
New series. The entertainer duo return with their regular weekend variety show, featuring audience surprises, outlandish stunts and celebrity guests. Kylie Minogue gets proceedings under way by opening the show with a studio performance, and Olly Murs swaps his rotating chair on The Voice for a seat in the announcer's booth. Amanda Holden becomes the first famous face to fall victim to the pair's latest round of Undercover pranks, and Stephen Mulhern is back to preside over another Ant Versus Dec contest, this time featuring monster trucks. Plus, Scarlett Moffat returns to Takeaway for more extravagant challenges, and the boys launch the show's biggest-ever Place on the Plane giveaway.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Live Winter Olympics 2018. Coverage from day 15 in PyeongChang, South Korea. **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Live Winter Olympics 2018. Coverage from day 15 in PyeongChang, South Korea. **4.00** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Scotland v England (Kick-off 4.45pm).

7.00 BBC News.

7.10 Regional Programme.

7.15 All Together Now. More amateur and professional singers hope to impress "the 100" as they take to the stage in the singalong challenge, competing for the two remaining spots in the Grand Final. This time, one of the acts dares a cover of judge Geri Horner's biggest hit, It's Raining Men, while others opt for Ed Sheeran's Galway Girl, Wet Wet Wet's Goodnight Girl, and Ain't Nobody by Chaka Khan. Rob Beckett presides over the proceedings.

8.20 Casualty. Ethan becomes preoccupied with solving the ED's budget problems, compromising patient care in the process. Meanwhile, Glen makes a decidedly unromantic proposal to Robyn.

9.10 Troy: Fall of a City. Helen and Paris reach Troy, and discover news of their illicit elopement has arrived ahead of them. Rulers Priam and Hecuba engage in an agonising debate over whether to send Helen back to her husband, or face the consequences of defiance. Meanwhile, in Sparta, Menelaus and his brother Agamemnon marshal the Greek forces in preparation of an invasion of Troy. Notable in his absence is Odysseus, king of Ithaca, but is he really as ill as he claims to be? Historical epic, starring Louis Hunter.

10.10 BBC News; Weather.; National Lottery Update.

10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches.

11.55 Live Winter Olympics 2018. Radzi Chinyanganya presents coverage of the opening events on day 16 in PyeongChang, South Korea, which includes curling, bobsleigh, and ice hockey.

3.30 Live Winter Olympics 2018. Continued coverage from day 16 in PyeongChang, South Korea.

BBC2

6.00 Live Winter Olympics 2018. Coverage of day 15 from PyeongChang, South Korea. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Hairy Bikers' Comfort Food. (R) **12.00** Live Winter Olympics 2018. Continued coverage from day 15 in PyeongChang, South Korea. **1.15** Escape to the Country. **2.00** Italy's Invisible Cities. (R) **3.00** Nigel Slater's Middle East. (R) **4.00** Trust Me, I'm a Doctor. (R) **4.30** Final Score. **5.30** Tom Kerridge: Lose Weight for Good. (R)

6.00 Hugh's Wild West. Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall extensive wildlife tour continues as he visits Dorset, where the mild climate has provided all kinds of creatures with ideal habitat conditions. He meets retired policeman Mick Jenner, who has been filming an otter family for the past few years, and local bat enthusiast Colin Morris, who has been keeping a watchful eye on the rare Bechstein bat. Plus, at Portland Bird Observatory, Hugh joins ornithologist Martin Cade in monitoring migrating blackcaps and wheatears.

7.00 Winter Olympics – Today at the Games. Clare Balding presents highlights of the 15th day's action in PyeongChang, South Korea, which included snowboarding, alpine skiing, and four-man bobsleigh.

8.00 David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. Footage of animals that have unusual means of finding their way around, including dung beetles that navigate by the sun and moon and pigeons with remarkable memories.

8.30 Dad's Army. Mainwaring seizes the chance to contribute to the war effort by guarding a captured German U-boat crew. Guest starring Philip Madoc. (R)

9.00 Judi Dench: All the World's Her Stage. Billy Connolly, Samantha Bond, Daniel Craig and Ian McKellen are among those reminiscing about the veteran actress in this celebration of her 60-year career. (R)

10.00 Film: Philomena. (2013) A disillusioned political journalist helps a woman find the child that was forcibly taken from her in the 1950s. Fact-based drama, with Judi Dench and Steve Coogan.

11.30 Film: Strawberry Fields. (2012) Drama, starring Anna Madeley.

12.55 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.00** BBC News.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** The Aquabats! Super Show! (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Marvel's Avengers: Ultron Revolution. **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: The Bagel and Becky Show. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Be Cool, Scooby-Doo! (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Wishfart. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** James Martin's Saturday Morning. **11.25** Dancing on Ice. (R) **1.20** ITV News; Weather. **1.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Ireland v Wales (Kick-off 2.15pm). **4.30** ITV News; Weather. **4.50** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.00** The Chase. (R)

6.00 Take Me Out: 10th Anniversary Special. A special edition of the matchmaking show, in which Paddy McGuinness switches the men and women around, with female celebrities seeking the approval of a panel of returning Romeos.

7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. New series. The entertainers return with their weekend variety show, featuring a show-opening performance by Kylie Minogue. Plus, Amanda Holden falls victim to an Undercover prank.

8.30 The Voice UK. The contest heats up as the teams assembled by Tom Jones, Will.i.am, Jennifer Hudson and Olly Murs enter the Battle phase. Here, the coaches are tasked with chipping away at their roster of would-be stars via head-to-head studio battles. Each of the coaches are given 'steals', which gives them a chance to save any of the acts knocked out by their rival coaches during the sing-offs. As the contest gets ever fiercer, Emma Willis will be on hand to congratulate the victors, and commiserate with their defeated rivals.

9.50 Through the Keyhole. Keith Lemon challenges Jonathan Ross, Melanie Sykes and Ashley Banjo to guess which celebrity abodes he has invaded this week. Last in the series.

10.45 ITV News; Weather.

11.05 Film: Lethal Weapon 4. (1998) Action adventure, starring Mel Gibson and Danny Glover.

1.30 Jackpot247. **3.00** Babushka. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.20 Mobil 1 The Grid. **6.45** 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R) **7.10** The King of Queens. (R) **7.35** The King of Queens. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **2.25** Coast vs Country. (R) **3.25** A Place in the Sun. (R) **4.30** The Secret Life of the Zoo. (R) **5.35** The Supervet. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Penelope Keith's Coastal Villages. Penelope explores the seaside villages of Northumberland and the Scottish Borders. She finds out how architect Edwin Lutyens and garden designer Gertrude Jekyll designed a home on the exposed coastline of the island of Lindisfarne, and walks along the golden beach of Low Newton, before taking in the medieval village of Warkworth. Previously seen on More4.

8.00 Britain at Low Tide. Tori Herridge continues her mission to chart Britain's rich maritime history via state-of-the-art technology. This time, she visits Dorset, where she tells the story of the world's first aircraft carriers. The team also reveals the crucial role the Dorset coastline played in D-Day, and searches for a unique Iron Age monument that can only be seen – sometimes – for a few hours each year.

9.00 Film: The Take. (2016) Premiere. An American pickpocket in Paris accidentally steals some top secret information, and finds himself on the run from the CIA. The agent in charge of the investigation recruits the thief's help when he discovers a sinister conspiracy that threatens both of them. Action thriller, starring Idris Elba.

10.50 Film: Dredd. (2012) A law enforcer in a post-apocalyptic city must fight his way out of a tower block dominated by a ruthless crime lord. Sci-fi thriller, starring Karl Urban and Lena Headey.

12.35 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **1.25** The Last Leg. (R) **2.20** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.25** Coast vs Country. (R) **5.20** Location, Location, Location. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.05** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **11.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **3.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **4.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **5.00** Rich House, Poor House. (R)

6.00 The Wonderful World of Puppies. The documentary series continues, highlighting how newborn pups' simple desire for sustenance from their mother evolves into a more complex set of emotions, covering everything from relationships with litter-mates to their bond with humans. Dexter the dalmatian cultivates a strong early attachment to his owner via massage sessions, while Loki the weimaraner discovers that – even though he may have been removed from his litter – a playful child can make for the perfect companion. (R)

7.00 Cruising with Jane McDonald. The singer sails the Danube on one of the most luxurious ships of its type, as she makes her first foray into the realms of the river cruise. (R)

8.00 Britannia: Secrets of the Royal Yacht. Part one of two. Rob Bell examines iconic ships that have played significant roles in Britain's maritime and cultural history, beginning with the Royal Yacht Britannia. (R)

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Football on 5: The Championship. Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games, including Fulham v Wolverhampton Wanderers and Sheffield Wednesday v Aston Villa.

10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush. Colin Murray introduces all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including Wigan Athletic v Rochdale and Charlton Athletic v Shrewsbury Town.

10.30 Britain's Favourite Biscuit. Celebrities including Sally Lindsay and Joe Swash discuss beloved biscuits, before the nation's favourite is revealed via a survey's results. (R)

11.55 Cruising with Jane McDonald.

12.10 SuperCasino. **3.10** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 The Dark: Nature's Nighttime World **8.00** Winter Olympics Extra **9.00** Modus **10.30** Top of the Pops: 1985 **11.40** Annie Nightingale: Bird on the Wireless **12.40** Queens of Soul **1.40** Folk America on Later with Jools Holland **2.40** From Ice to Fire: The Incredible Science of Temperature **3.40** Close

ITV2

11.30 Take Me Out **1.05** Mr Bean **2.05** You've Been Framed! Gold **3.10 Film:** Babe (1995) **4.20** FYI Daily **4.25 Film:** Babe (1995) **5.00 Film:** Nanny McPhee (2005) **6.00** FYI Daily **6.05 Film:** Nanny McPhee (2005) **7.05 Film:** The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (2014) **8.10** FYI Daily **8.15 Film:** The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (2014) **9.50** Survival of the Fittest **10.50** Family Guy **11.50** American Dad! **12.45** The Cleveland Show **1.40** Ibiza Weekender **2.35** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

1.25 Film: Columbo: The Most Dangerous Match (1973) **3.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **5.00** The Durrells **7.05** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Lewis **1.05** The Good Karma Hospital **1.55** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

11.25 Fishing Impossible **1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Kempton. Coverage of today's race meetings at Kempton Park, Lingfield Park and Newcastle. **4.00 Film:** The Train Robbers (1973) **5.00** FYI Daily **5.05 Film:** The Train Robbers (1973) **5.55** Storage Wars **6.25** World Cup Rivalries: England v Argentina **6.45** Live Snooker: World Grand Prix. The second semi-final. **11.15 Film:** High Plains Drifter (1973) **12.20** FYI Daily **12.25 Film:** High Plains Drifter (1973) **1.30** The Professionals **2.25** Counting Cars **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

12.35 The Big Bang Theory **7.15 Film:** Men in Black II (2002) **9.00 Film:** The Heat (2013) **11.20** Gogglebox **12.25** Naked Attraction **1.30** Celebs Go Dating **4.20** How I Met Your Mother **5.05** Rude(ish) Tube

Film4

11.00 Napoleon Dynamite (2004) **1.00** Ice Age: The Meltdown (2006) **2.45** Gulliver's Travels (2010) **4.25** The Family Stone (2005) **6.35** The Three Musketeers (2011) **9.00** Aliens: Special Edition (1986) **12.00** American Mary (2012) **2.05** The Bling Ring (2013) **3.55** Close

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The King and I

The critically acclaimed production of Rodgers & Hammerstein's The King and I will be coming to the London Palladium this summer for a limited time only!

Set in the year 1862, East meets West in this musical as British schoolteacher Anna Leonowens travels to Siam to instruct the royal children. Two worlds collide, and in spite of her wit and strong will, there are many lessons awaiting Anna in this foreign land, and she is unprepared for the strong connection that will occur between her and the King.

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Terry Teachout, The Wall Street Journal

The Tina Turner Musical

Nobody ever did storming, stropping, gyrating rock goddess like Tina Turner, officially one of the best-selling female artists in history, whose rasping power vocal, tempestuous personal life and sheer survival instinct were just begging to be turned into a rock opera.

Well now it has been, in a show written by Olivier award-winning playwright Katori Hall and directed by the internationally acclaimed Phyllida Lloyd, and you can see it erupt onto the stage at London's Aldwych Theatre. With coach travel, hotel accommodation and free time in London, this isn't just a great deal – it's Simply the Best!

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SUNDAY'S TV FEBRUARY 25

CHOICE

Tom Burke

Strike – Career of Evil (BBC1, 9pm)

Part one of a two-part adaptation of JK Rowling's detective novel, with Tom Burke returning for a third time as private eye Cormoran Strike. Robin receives a severed leg in the post, and Strike is soon on the trail of potential suspects - all of whom have personal vendettas against him. Matthew's jealousy threatens his relationship with Robin, especially when she and Strike go away overnight. Tom Burke, Holliday Grainger, Andrew Brooke, Ben Compton, Jessica Gunning, Matt King, Kerr Logan and Killian Scott star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Wanted Down Under. **2.00** Money for Nothing. (R) **2.45** Get Away for Winter. **3.30** Songs of Praise. **4.05** Earth's Natural Wonders. (R) **5.05** Earth's Natural Wonders. (R)

6.05 BBC News.

6.20 Regional Programme.

6.30 Countryfile. Matt Baker and Helen Skelton present the show from Derbyshire, where they report on blood donation drop-ins for alpacas and a form of above ground potholing involving squeezing in and out of rocky tors. Tom Heap investigates illegal abattoirs and Adam Henson meets a North Wales farmer who uses a special kind of working dog to manage his livestock.

7.30 Hold the Sunset. Edith turns 70, and Phil and Roger try to outshine each other with their gifts, while Roger also plots to ruin his mother's new romance. Guest starring Joanna Scanlan and Anne Reid.

8.00 Call the Midwife. Barbara helps a pregnant mother-of-two whose husband has recently died, and is on hand to give her support when a further tragedy drives her and her children from their home. Lucille teaches a health and relationships class at the youth club, only to encounter a furious mother who objects to her daughter attending.

9.00 Strike – Career of Evil. Part one of a two-part adaptation of JK Rowling's detective novel. Strike investigates potential suspects when Robin receives a severed leg in the post. Starring Tom Burke.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman presents action from the only Premier League clash of the day, as Manchester United hosted Chelsea at Old Trafford.

11.15 Film: Point Break. (1991) An undercover FBI agent infiltrates a Californian surfing gang to investigate a spate of armed robberies. Kathryn Bigelow's thriller, starring Keanu Reeves.

1.10 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Live Winter Olympics 2018. Coverage of day 16 from PyeongChang, South Korea. **11.00** Live Winter Olympics 2018 Closing Ceremony. Clare Balding presents coverage from PyeongChang, South Korea. **2.00** Live Athletics: Glasgow Indoor Grand Prix. Coverage of the meeting from Emirates Arena. **5.30** Flog It! (R)

6.00 Back in Time for Tea. A family embarks on a time-travelling adventure to discover how a post-war revolution in food transformed the British way of life, sampling meals from 1918 to the present day. (R)

7.00 Winter Olympics – Today at the Games. Clare Balding presents highlights of the 16th and final day's action in PyeongChang, South Korea, which included the deciding heats of the four-man bobsleigh, the gold-medal match in the women's curling competition, plus the men's gold medal ice hockey encounter, and also the ladies 30km mass start biathlon event.

8.00 Top Gear. New series. Matt LeBlanc, Chris Harris and Rory Reid take a motorsports road trip across the Wild West. Back on the track, Rob Brydon is the Star in a Reasonably Fast Car.

9.00 Life And Death Row: The Mass Execution. An attorney tries to halt an execution on the basis that the condemned man did not get a fair trial 24 years previously, but the original prosecutor is still determined to see the sentence is carried out. The family of a prisoner claim that DNA testing will prove his innocence, and the daughter of the woman he is accused of killing hopes his death will allow her to move on.

10.15 The Mash Report. Nish Kumar and a cast of comedy correspondents present the satirical and surreal take on the week's news. (R)

10.45 Top Gear: Extra Gear. New series. Rory Reid is joined by guests Sabine Schmitz and John Hennessey for a celebration of V8 engines, and takes a ride in a Mk 1 GT40 with Le Mans champion Jackie Walker.

11.10 Cleverman.

12.00 Women's Six Nations Highlights. **12.30** Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **1.30** Holby City. (R) **2.30** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** The Aquabats! Super Show! (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Super 4. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Marvel's Avengers: Ultron Revolution. **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Teen Titans Go! (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Spy School. **9.05** Scrambled!: Wishfart. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Love Your Garden. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** The Martin Lewis Money Show. (R) **11.30** The Voice UK. (R) **12.45** ITV News; Weather. **1.00** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. (R) **2.30** What Would Your Kid Do? (R) **3.30** Tipping Point. (R) **4.30** ITV News; Weather. **4.50** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special. (R)

6.00 Dancing on Ice. Phillip Schofield and Holly Willoughby present fairytale week, as the remaining contestants perform fantastical routines to impress judges Christopher Dean, Jayne Torvill, Jason Gardiner and Ashley Banjo before the dreaded Skate-Off determines which couple will be leaving the show. Featuring a guest appearance from the cast of Disney on Ice.

8.00 Endeavour. The detective drama prequel takes inspiration from an episode from Oxford's real-life history, in which Nation of Islam preacher and civil rights campaigner Malcolm X was invited to speak at the Oxford Union in December 1964, less than two months before his assassination in New York. Here, Morse struggles to negotiate escalating social tensions as a protest at a hair salon exposes rapidly escalating racial unrest in the heart of the city. Meanwhile, a murder at an Army base threatens to unveil long-held secrets within the regiment.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, with Allegra Stratton. (R)

11.15 Six Nations Highlights. Action from the third round of the championship, featuring France v Italy at the Orange Velodrome, Ireland v Wales at the Aviva Stadium and Scotland v England at Twickenham.

12.10 100 Year Old Driving School. (R) **12.35** Marcella. (R) **1.25** Jackpot247. **3.00** Take on the Twisters. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **1.30** Jamie's Quick & Easy Food. (R) **2.00** The Simpsons. (R) **2.30** The Simpsons. (R) **2.55 Film:** Tooth Fairy. (2010) Family comedy, starring Dwayne Johnson. **5.00 Film:** Ice Age: Continental Drift. (2012) Animated comedy sequel, with the voice of Ray Romano.

6.35 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Posh Pawn. James Constantinou is armed and dangerous in an army tank that a military vehicle enthusiast hopes to sell for £30,000 to fund the family trip of a lifetime, and brushes up on his history when he's presented with a Sultan's sword. Designer handbag expert Claudia Valentin meets a man-about-town who wants to upgrade his Hermes Birkin bag. (R)

8.00 Hannibal's Elephant Army: The New Evidence. Scientists search for traces of the Carthaginian general's journey across the Alps with an army that included 40,000 men, 9000 cavalry and 37 elephants, a challenge that involved traversing mountains, raging rivers and the territory of hostile tribes. New evidence found in the rocky soil of the mountain range offers clues to the specific details of the trek. Palaeobiologist Dr Tori Herridge reveals why elephants are surprisingly good at mountain climbing, while historian Dr Eve MacDonald examines the motivations that drove Hannibal to make his seemingly impossible journey.

9.00 Homeland. The espionage drama continues with Carrie's attempts to free the 200 members of the intelligence community imprisoned by the president after the attempt on her life. As Wellington protects Keane, O'Keefe continues to broadcast and Carrie makes a discovery. Claire Danes, Linus Roache and Elizabeth Marvel star.

10.10 Gogglebox. (R)

11.05 Film: Shutter Island. (2010) Mystery thriller, starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Mark Ruffalo.

1.35 The World's Most Expensive Food. (R) **2.30** The Supervet. (R) **3.25** Four Rooms with Sarah Beeny. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.10** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.15** The Secret Life of Puppies. (R) **6.20** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.35** Mofy. (R) **6.40** Simon. (R) **6.45** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.50** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.05** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.15** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.25** Blaze and the Monster Machines. **7.55** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.10** Nella the Princess Knight. (R) **8.25** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.45** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.55** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.10** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.30** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.40** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.05** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.00** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **11.35 Film:** The Bridge at Remagen. (1969) **1.50 Film:** A Bridge Too Far. (1977) Fact-based Second World War drama, with Dirk Bogarde. **5.05 Film:** Where Eagles Dare. (1968) Second World War adventure, with Richard Burton and Clint Eastwood.

8.00 Carabao Cup Final: Highlights. Arsenal v Manchester City. Colin Murray presents extended action from the showpiece match, as Arsene Wenger's Gunners met Pep Guardiola's men at Wembley Stadium. Arsenal had only ever won this competition twice, with their most recent victory coming 25 years ago. City had lifted the cup four times, most recently in 2016 following a penalty-shootout victory over Liverpool.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Film: Trainwreck. (2015) Premiere. A journalist lives her life by her father's maxim that monogamy never works, and has spent her adult life enjoying freedom from commitment. When she is sent to interview a doctor, an attraction develops between them, and she begins to wonder if there might be something to be said for a stable relationship. Comedy, starring Amy Schumer, Bill Hader, Brie Larson and Tilda Swinton.

10.00 5 News Update.

10.05 Film: Trainwreck. (2015) Concluded.

11.35 Film: Sex Tape. (2014) A couple try to spice up their marriage by filming themselves having sex, but then have to stop anyone from seeing the footage. Comedy, with Cameron Diaz and Jason Segel.

1.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** Cowboy Builders. (R) **4.00** My Mum's Hotter Than Me! (R) **4.45** House Doctor. (R) **5.10** Divine Designs. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Only Connect **7.30** University Challenge **8.00** Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble **9.30 Film:** Clouds of Sils Maria (2014) **11.30** From Ice to Fire: The Incredible Science of Temperature **12.30** The Genius of Bert Jansch: Folk, Blues & Beyond **2.00** The Enigma of Nic Jones: Return of Britain's Lost Folk Hero **3.00** The Art of France **4.00** Close

ITV2

12.30 Mr Bean **1.35** The Voice UK **3.00 Film:** Looney Tunes: Back in Action (2003) **4.05** FYI Daily **4.10 Film:** Looney Tunes: Back in Action (2003) **4.55 Film:** Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **5.55** FYI Daily **6.00 Film:** Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **7.00 Film:** Legally Blonde (2001) **8.00** FYI Daily **8.05 Film:** Legally Blonde (2001) **9.00** Ibiza Weekender **10.00** Survival of the Fittest **11.00** Family Guy **12.25** American Dad! **1.25** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

11.35 Lewis **1.35** A Touch of Frost **3.50** The Durrells **6.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs **9.00** Tonight at the London Palladium **10.00 Film:** Captain Corelli's Mandolin (2001) **12.35** Life of Crime **1.30** Blue Murder **2.45** George and Mildred **4.05** Road to Avonlea **5.50** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4

11.35 Minder **12.45** Live Snooker: World Grand Prix. The opening session of the final. **5.15** Storage Wars **5.45** The Chase Celebrity Special **6.45** Live Snooker: World Grand Prix. The second session of the final. **11.15 Film:** A Dangerous Man (2010) **12.15** FYI Daily **12.20 Film:** A Dangerous Man (2010) **1.20** Minder **2.20** Counting Cars **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

11.05 Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **11.20** The Goldbergs **12.20 Film:** Stuart Little (1999) **2.00** The Goldbergs **3.30** The Big Bang Theory **6.00** Young Sheldon **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **7.00 Film:** Men in Black 3 (2012) **9.00** Celebs Go Dating **10.00** Naked Attraction **11.10** The Big Bang Theory **12.05** Gogglebox **1.10** Celebs Go Dating **2.15** Tattoo Fixers **3.05** Rude Tube **3.35** Hollyoaks

Film4

1.00 Cutthroat Island (1995) **3.35** Pride & Prejudice (2005) **6.10** Snow White & the Huntsman Interview Special **6.20** Snow White & the Huntsman (2012) **9.00** Alien 3 (1992) **11.15** Salt (2010) **1.15** Monsoon Wedding (2001) **3.35** Close

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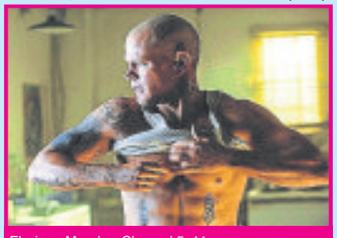
FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Elysium, Channel 5, 11pm
In the future, most of the human race exists in poverty on a ruined Earth, while a wealthy elite live in luxury on an orbiting space station. A man dying of radiation poisoning fights security forces to gain access to the satellite and its medical facilities. Sci-fi thriller from the director of District 9, starring Matt Damon. (2013)

TUESDAY
Killer Collector, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Two women at an auction unwittingly purchase a storage locker belonging to a serial killer that contains evidence of his crimes. They soon find themselves in a desperate race to uncover the truth before the murderer tracks them down. Thriller, directed by and starring Casper Van Dien. (2015)

WEDNESDAY
Good, BBC1, 11.45pm
A literary professor in 1930s Germany finds his work praised by the fast-rising Nazi party, and begins to enjoy the privileges conferred by their acclaim. As his prosperity grows, he becomes increasingly morally compromised, and as the true nature of Nazi ideology becomes clear, he tries to protect his Jewish psychiatrist from the state. Drama, with Viggo Mortensen, Jason Isaacs and Jodie Whittaker. (2008)


Elysium, Monday, Channel 5, 11pm

THURSDAY
My Family's Secret, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A man attempts suicide, leaving a cryptic note claiming he may have caused his sister's death. His wife goes back to his home town in search of answers and asks his brother for help. She does not realise her brother-in-law has a split personality, and digging up the past brings out his more dangerous aspects. Thriller, starring Nicholle Tom. (2010)

FRIDAY
Blades of Glory, BBC1, 11.05pm
A bad-boy figure skater and his effeminate arch-enemy are banned from the sport after their intense rivalry results in a brawl. However, the pair find a loophole in the regulations allowing them to enter the world championships as the first ever same-sex pair. Comedy, starring Will Ferrell. (2007)

Mary serves up more tasty treats in her new series

You just can't keep a good woman down.

Mary Berry may be 82, an age when most people are concentrating on relaxing rather than reaching the peak of their career, but she's bigger and more popular than ever. And it's all down to one little programme - The Great British Bake Off.

She was already well known before it came along, but the show turned her into a household name. Of course, she's no longer associated with it, having decided not to stay with the series, as her fellow judge Paul Hollywood did, when it moved to Channel 4.

Her place was taken by Prue Leith, who has proved a worthy successor. She also has a cheeky side that allows Hollywood to be less serious than in previous runs – does that mean Berry prefers people to mind their Ps and Qs when she's around?

Perhaps so, but seeing as she's going solo these days, it no longer matters. No doubt she will continue to bring her homespun magic to us for some time to come; certainly the BBC hope she will.

"Mary is an extraordinary woman, loved and adored by the British public, and the BBC is her natural home," says the broadcaster's director of content, Charlotte Moore.

"I've been very lucky to have had the pleasure of working with Mary for many years and I'm so pleased that relationship will continue. She is an inspiration to generations, a real icon and I can't wait to cook up more unmissable shows with her in the future."

Berry is still keen on bringing her wisdom to as many people as possible – and it seems that, if she is attracted to a project, she will grab it with both hands. It's an approach she credits to a three-month spell she had in hospital after contracting polio as a child; she claims that being away from her family inspired her to make the most of every opportunity.

Berry turns turn 83 in March, an age when many people are slowing down and enjoying their retirement. Instead, she's heading back into the kitchen to reveal the best way to prepare some of her favourite meals.

"These are my wonderful brand-new recipes - timeless classics, simple British dishes and delicious, modern favourites to tempt family and friends," she explains. "With my trusted tips and techniques for quick, easy and foolproof cooking, in Classic I'll show you how to make the very best food in my own special, no-fuss way."

And unlike some TV chefs, she doesn't like to bombard viewers with ingredients they may never have heard of: "It's very important that the recipes work and contain ingredients that everybody can buy from supermarkets."

Amen to that!

On the menu during the run will be rack of lamb with orange and thyme sauce, a perfect loin of pork with apple sauce, lemon meringue pie and many, many more mouth-watering meals and treats.

PICK OF THE WEEK

Classic Mary Berry, Monday, BBC1, 8.30pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Electric Dreams: The Father Thing
Channel 4, 10pm
Eleven-year-old Charlie Cotrell must make the most difficult decisions imaginable to protect his mother and the human race when he is among the first to realise that the homes of everyone on Earth are being infiltrated by an insidious extra-terrestrial threat. The return after a break of the sci-fi anthology featuring stories based on the works of Philip K Dick, with this instalment based on 1954 short story The Father-Thing and starring Greg Kinnear, Mireille Enos and Shannon Brown.

TUESDAY
Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh
Channel 5, 8pm
With its awesome frontage ('more glass than wall') and six turrets, Hardwick Hall in Derbyshire was a wonder of its time. The magnificent 16th-century mansion is Alan's first destination in series two of the programme looking at some of Britain's historical homes and gardens. He hears how Hardwick was the fabulous home of Elizabeth Talbot, Countess of Shrewsbury, commonly referred to as Bess of Hardwick, who rose to become the second most powerful woman in Tudor England, after Queen Elizabeth I. Meanwhile, Miriam O'Reilly visits nearby Stainsby Mill, which produced flour and bread for the residents, guests and staff of the estate and, also in the Peak District, Jenni Bond travels to Ecton Mines, a rich source of copper bought by Bess's descendants. Finally, Peter Purves visits Oxburgh Hall, a moated manor house in Norfolk which boasts needlework created by Bess and Mary, Queen of Scots.

WEDNESDAY
The World's Most Extraordinary Homes
BBC2, 8pm
New series. Award-winning architect Piers Taylor and actress and property enthusiast Caroline Quentin return to explore more extraordinary homes around the world. In the opening episode, the pair travel to Portugal, where they come across four very different properties. First, they visit a ultramodern house located in the Portuguese Riviera, before travelling to Penela, to view a property owned by British ex-pats Neil and Shirley. The pair then visit a house built within a pine forest near the Atlantic coast, before ending their journey around Portugal at a property hidden in the mountainous region of Peneda-Geres National Park.

THURSDAY
Serial Killer with Piers Morgan
ITV, 9pm
Piers Morgan has interviewed several convicted killers for his US-based documentaries, including Mark Riebe last year. His latest unsettling encounter is with Lorenzo Gilyard, who is also known as the Kansas City Strangler. For nearly two decades, beginning in 1977, he brought fear to the streets of Kansas City, Missouri, raping and murdering vulnerable women before discarding their bodies. It wasn't until 2003 that DNA evidence linked the victims to Gilyard, a seemingly happily married man who was respected at his job as a sanitation worker. He was tried for seven murders and found guilty of six of them, and is now serving consecutive life sentences with no chance of parole. He continues to protest his innocence and at first seems to have an answer for all of Morgan's question, but eventually he starts to run out of excuses.

Serial Killer with Piers Morgan, Thursday, ITV, 9pm

FRIDAY
Live Athletics
BBC2, 5.50pm
The World Indoor Championships. Coverage of the evening session on the second day of the competition, which takes place at Arena Birmingham. The women's 60m will come to a conclusion tonight with the running of both the semi-finals and final, and there will also be finals staged in the men's long jump and women's shot put, while the women's pentathlon will conclude with the long jump and 800m. Other notable events on the timetable are the opening round of the men's 800m and women's 1500m, in addition to the semi-finals of the women's and men's 400m.

The Yorkshire Steam Railway: All Aboard
Channel 5, 8pm
New series. Life on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway, following an eventful week during which plans are made to welcome star steam engine Royal Scot to the heritage railway.

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No.468

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

10	2	20	20	■	16	2	1	25	19	22	7	14	
2	■	6	■	■	25	■	■	16	■	18	■	16	
17	■	2	11	8	6	16	13	23	■	10	■	2	
6	2	12	■	■	■	8	■	■	4	3	5	24	
24	■	19	■	7	3	6	6	■	■	17	■	19	
■	19	21	7	5	■	16	■	18	22	1	1	24	
■	■	■	■	18	■	15	■	2	■	■	■	■	
24	1	19	25	24	■	2	■	7	6	3	21	■	
3	■	17	■	■	23	22	21	24	■	8	■	4	
9	19	24	1	■	■	19	■	■	■	24	19	3	
22	■	3	■	6	3	24	3	7	11	19	■	22	I
11	■	1	■	19	■	■	24	■	■	22	■	6	L
7	22	26	26	3	17	21	24	■	3	6	10	24	

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
M	Y	D	I	C	J	G	A	T	H	P	Z	V
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
O	Q	X	U	F	W	K	E	L	B	S	N	R

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6 L	19
7	20
8	21
9	22 I
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

1		2		■	3	4		5		6		7	
	■		■	8	■		■		■		■		
9							■	10					
	■		■		■		■		■		■		
11													■
	■	■	■		■		■		■		■	12	
13		14				■	15						
	■		■		■	16	■		■	■	■		
■	17									18			
19	■		■		■		■		■		■		
20					■	21							
	■		■		■		■		■		■		
22									■	23			

Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Fail to get a spinster (4)
3. The cards I can beat are a disadvantage (8)
9. Tells of bishops losing prominent leader (7)
10. The colour of whitebeam berries (5)
11. Although inexperienced with digits, they're useful in the nursery (5,7)
13. Letter offering plenty of lip (6)
15. Figurine of astute construction (6)
17. Girl all at sea for the first time? (6,6)
20. Put ring on arm or leg to show condition of neglect (5)
21. Uneasy with the others I have (7)
22. Offered to look after Eastern Communist (8)
23. Forsook political wing (4)

Down

1. Spoil one gilt flower (8)
2. Loves to find the answer (5)
4. Attack because to put to sea (6)
5. Dose given to animal to make it a puller of heavy loads (7,5)
6. A bar, etc. for entertainment (7)
7. Left harbour (4)
8. Shrub trained in tree form went up in quality (8,4)
12. Tear about always showing great respect (8)
14. Atom ban affected water transport operator (7)
16. Half-open plant supplies part of meal (6)
18. A team apart (5)
19. Uninteresting place to live (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Jealousy (4)
3. Rubbing (8)
9. Like fungus (7)
10. Disturb (5)
11. Tangle (12)
13. Ascends (6)
15. Squirm (6)
17. Esteem (12)
20. Concerning (5)
21. Unravel (7)
22. Constantly (8)
23. Colours (4)

Down

1. Effectiveness (8)
2. Poison (5)
4. Lessen (6)
5. Opposite numbers (12)
6. Briefly (2,5)
7. Observation (4)
8. Worked together (12)
12. Enthusiasm (8)
14. Ameliorate (7)
16. Existing (6)
18. Very coldly (5)
19. Overtake (4)

Sudoku

1				6	3			2
	7						4	
		8	4	7	9	1		
	5		6		7		1	
7				8				
	6		2		5		3	
		6	9	3	8	5		
	3						8	
4				2		3		9

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

7	9	2	4	8	3	6	1	5
5	4	8	2	1	6	3	9	7
6	3	1	9	7	5	8	2	4
1	8	3	7	9	2	5	4	6
9	5	6	3	4	8	1	7	2
4	2	7	5	6	1	9	8	3
3	7	5	1	2	9	4	6	8
2	6	9	8	3	4	7	5	1
8	1	4	6	5	7	2	3	9

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Niblick; 7 Spent; 9 Actor; 10 Resided; 12 Stand to gain; 14 Legal action; 18 Besiege; 19 Adore; 21 Paint; 22 Setting. Down: 1 Cinch; 2 Almost; 3 Act; 4 Spring; 5 Inherit; 8 Testate; 11 Enlarge; 13 Several; 15 Aligns; 16 Oddity; 17 Crone; 20 Set. QUICK - Across: 6 Forlorn; 7 Vixen; 9 Prime; 10 Counsel; 12 Expostulate; 14 Extravagant; 18 Flowing; 19 Spate; 21 Fiery; 22 Deficit. Down: 1 Lorry; 2 Climax; 3 Orb; 4 Signal; 5 Memento; 8 Cottage; 11 Convene; 13 Explain; 15 Reward; 16 Napkin; 17 Attic; 20 Few.

Quiz

1. Who was born Maria Eva Duarte?
2. Of which bird is the European redwing a variety?
3. Tornado Alley lies between which two US mountain ranges?
4. How many cards are there in a tarot deck?
5. In which US state are the towns Norman and Enid?
6. Which London attraction has its own police force?
7. In which mythology was Marduk the creator of Earth and humans?
8. Which sea bird is also called the solan goose?
9. What is the study of crops and soils called?
10. In which country was Alcoholics Anonymous set up in 1934?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Lobster; 2 Franz Liszt; 3 Kookaburra; 4 Alva; 5 Peter Sellers; 6 Pontefract; 7 Seaweed; 8 A lizard; 9 Table tennis; 10 Walter Mitty.

Niner: DRUMSTICK

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

3213476 gives a fabric,
578571 gives a cloth,
986219 gives a fur.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Delightful semi is an ideal choice for first-time buyers

A delightful semi-detached home, 28 Field Street in Cannock is an ideal first time buy which has a motived seller, being for sale through Jayman estate agents at a price reduced to encourage a quick sale at offers over £125,000.

The property briefly comprises of a lounge, dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms and a family bathroom. It also benefits from having an enclosed rear garden with outside storage.

In more detail the lounge has a window to the front and a fireplace housing an electric fire, the dining room has windows to the side and rear elevations, under-stairs storage and laminate flooring.

The kitchen is fitted with a range of wall and base units with work surfaces over, a sink and drainer unit, part tiled walls, an oven with a gas hob, a central heating boiler, tiled flooring and a Velux window.

Bedroom one has a window to the front, while bedroom two has built-in storage.

The property will have a newly re fitted bathroom by the time completion has taken place. It currently has a window to the side, a low level WC, wash hand basin, a bath with mixer taps and a shower over and part tiled walls.

Outside, to the front, this home is approached via a paved footpath. The rear garden is enclosed, having a gravelled area and benefitting from having a brick built storage. In more detail this home is well presented throughout, decorated in attractive shades.

The frontage is bordered by a brick wall.

The kitchen has white high gloss units complemented by black granite-effect working surfaces, chrome long handles and tiled flooring.

The bathroom is of a very good size and features tiled flooring.

CANNOCK £125,000

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Jayman
TEL: 01543 505566
EMAIL: cannock@jayman.co.uk

KEY FEATURES

- Delightful semi-detached
- Two bedrooms
- Motivated seller
- Ideal first-time buy
- Garden with storage

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Three-bedroom mid terrace on the outskirts of town up for rent

RUGELEY
£550 PCM <<<

This well-presented three-bedroomed traditional mid terraced house in Winstanley Place, Rugeley, lies on the outskirts of town.

It is available to rent through Southwells estate agents at £550 per calender month.

With gas central heating and part double glazing, its accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hall, lounge/dining room and a kitchen. To the first floor there is a landing, three bedrooms and a bathroom. Outside are gardens to the front and rear and a rear gated access.

A deposit of £600 payable in advance will be held against any loss or breach of the terms of the tenancy. The deposit will be held by the Deposit Protection Service. No smoking is allowed in the property and pets are by arrangement only.

Contact 01889 582137 for full details.

Family home new to the property market

HAZEL SLADE
£399,950

New to the property market, this well presented detached family home in Rugeley Road, Hazel Slade, comes with a great sized landscaped garden with a heated swimming pool.

In a sought-after location, it also comes with four bedrooms, a re-fitted breakfast kitchen and re-fitted bathroom, a summer house with power, and wood chip play area. It is for sale through JR Properties at offers over £399,950.

In a sought after village location, it has an entrance hallway, lounge, guest cloakroom/WC, dining room, re-fitted breakfast kitchen, utility and study, landing to master bedroom with en suite, three further bedrooms and a re-fitted bathroom.

For further information, call 01889 577731.

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CGI of The Granby 4 bedroom at Waterside Place and typical Kier showhome interiors. Elevations and finishes may vary. *Available on selected plots subject to terms and conditions. **Help to buy available upon request subject to terms and conditions.

Detached property is immaculately presented

CHURCHBRIDGE
£260,000

Immaculately presented throughout, this four-bedroomed detached home in Myrtle Glade, Churchbridge, Cannock is for sale through Webbs estate agents at £260,000.

In a popular location, its accommodation briefly comprises of an entrance hallway, a spacious lounge, an enviable and well equipped kitchen/diner and a utility room to the ground floor.

To the first floor there are four bedrooms with the master having an en-suite shower room and a three piece family bathroom.

Outside the property has an enclosed rear garden which has a paved patio seating area and a lawn, a gate to the side leading to the driveway and a garage.

Contact Webbs on 01543 468846.

A charming five-bedroom semi over three floors

CANNOCK
£210,000 <<<

This charming five-bedroomed semi-detached house in Elizabeth Road, Cannock, has spacious accommodation over three floors.

It is for sale through Chase Independent Estate Agents at £210,000.

It has a reception hallway with stairs off, a cloakroom/WC off and a storage cupboard.

The modern kitchen/diner has a range of modern white base and wall mounted units with preparation work surfaces over, complementary splash-backs, incorporating a gas hob, extractor fan, electric oven, space for a fridge freezer, plumbing for a washing machine and vinyl flooring

The lounge has French doors to the rear garden.

Contact Chase Independent on 01543 504234.

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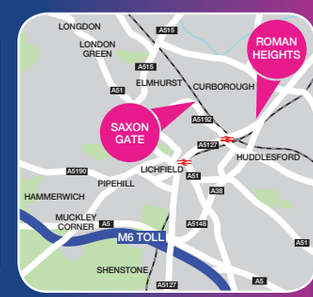

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- Kitchen Diner
- Conservatory & Versatile Games Room
- Gardens & Summer House
- Parking & Car Port
- EPC=F

£200,000

Railway Court Norton Canes

£45,000

• First Floor Apartment • Lounge
• Separate Fitted Kitchen • Two Bedrooms
• Allocated Parking • EPC = B

Rudyard Way Cannock

£169,950

• Beautifully Presented Throughout • Three Bedrooms
• Good Size Kitchen/Diner • Rear Garden, Garage & Driveway
• NO UPWARD CHAIN • EPC= C

Lowland Road Cannock

£139,950

• Renovated Throughout • Three Bedrooms
• Driveway • Enclosed Rear Garden with Storage
• NO CHAIN! • EPC = F

Lichfield Road Cannock

£289,950

• ••PART EXCHANGE CONSIDERED•• • Three Bedroom Detached House
• Two Reception Rooms & Conservatory • Pleasant Front & Rear Gardens
• Double Garage • EPC = F

Griffin Close Burntwood

£159,950

• Three Bed Semi Detached House • Living Room with Dining Area
• Fitted Breakfast Kitchen • Front & Rear Gardens
• Off Road Parking • EPC = D

Jubilee Close Great Wyrley

£169,950

• Semi Detached House • Three Bedrooms
• Rear Garden • Garage & Driveway
• Cul De Sac Location • EPC = D

Knighton Road Cannock

£210,000

• Four Bed Link Detached House • Two Reception Rooms
• Rear Garden • Garage & Driveway
• No Upward Chain • EPC = D

Capercaillie Drive Heath Hayes

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- Four Bedrooms
- En Suite to Master
- Kitchen Diner & Separate Lounge
- Guest WC
- Garage, Driveway & Enclosed Rear Garden
- EPC = C

£225,000

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OLD PENKRIDGE ROAD, CANNOCK

- Detached Family Home
- Five Bedrooms & Study
- Two Bathrooms
- Open Plan Kitchen / Dining Room
- Living Room & Family Room
- No Upward Chain
- Utility / WC
- Very Desirable Road

£445,000

SHERBROOK ROAD, CANNOCK

- CORNER PLOT GARDENS
- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- DOUBLE LENGTH GARAGE
- BREAKFAST KITCHEN
- FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED
- POTENITAL FOR EXTENSIONS
- LOUNGE & DINING ROOM
- HUGE POTENTIAL

£315,000

BURGOYNE STREET, CANNOCK

- EXECUTIVE DETACHED HOME
- EN-SUITE & BATHROOM
- IMPRESSIVE ACCOMMODATION
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- OPEN PLAN KITCHEN / DINING ROOM
- CONSERVATORY & LOUNGE
- UTILITY ROOM & GUEST WC

£260,000

Turquoise Grove, Heath Hayes

- FOUR BEDROOMS
- ENSUITE & BATHROOM
- CUL DE SAC LOCATION
- GARAGE
- LOUNGE & DINING ROOM
- FRONT & REAR GARDEN
- CONSERVATORY
- MODERN KITCHEN

£255,000

VIVALDI DRIVE, HEATH HAYES

- WELL PRESENTED DETACHED HOME
- LOUNGE & DINING ROOM
- FOUR BEDROOMS
- EN-SUITE & BATHROOM
- BREAKFAST KITCHEN
- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- SPACIOUS LOUNGE & CONSERVATORY
- EPC - C

£240,000

WALLACE CLOSE, NORTON CANES

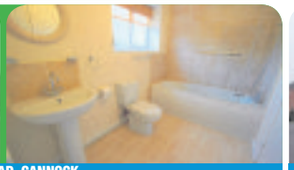
- THREE BED DETACHED
- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- DUAL ASPECT LOUNGE / DINER
- CONSERVATORY
- GARAGE & DRIVEWAY
- FITTED KITCHEN
- REFITTED BATHROOM
- CLOSE TO AMENITIES

£170,000

STAFFORD ROAD, CANNOCK

- IMMACULATE SEMI DETACHED
- DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM
- LARGE DETACHED GARAGE AT REAR
- LARGE REAR GARDEN
- LOUNGE & KITCHEN
- CLOSE TO CANNOCK TOWN CENTRE
- EN-SUITE OFF THE MASTER
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

£165,000



REDHILL ROAD, CANNOCK

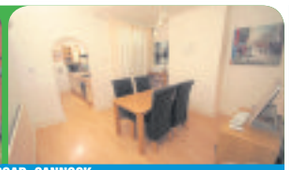
- DETACHED BUNGALOW
- FULLY DOUBLE GLAZED
- MODERN KITCHEN & BATHROOM
- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- OPEN PLAN LIVING
- GATED DRIVEWAY
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING SYSTEM
- FREEHOLD & EPC C

£125,000

HARPERS COURT, HEATH HAYES

- IMMACULATE 2ND FLOOR APARTMENT
- SPACIOUS LOUNGE / DINER
- FITTED KITCHEN WITH APPLIANCES
- ALLOCATED PARKING
- VISITORS SPACES
- TWO BEDROOMS & NO UPWARD CHAIN
- MODERN BATHROOM

£115,000



HEDNEFORD ROAD, CANNOCK

- TRADITIONAL END TERRACE
- DOWNSTAIRS WC
- UPSTAIRS BATHROOM
- TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- LOUNGE & DINING ROOM
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- KITCHEN & UTILITY

£110,000

LUPIN DRIEVE, HUNTINGTON

- Modern Second Floor Flat
- Two Double Bedrooms
- 40% Shared Ownership
- Generous Accommodation
- Immaculately Presented
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Energy Rating C

Offers Over £39,000

WOOTTONS COURT, CANNOCK

- CLOSE TO CANNOCK TOWN
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- ELECTRIC HEATING
- TWO BEDROOMS
- IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY
- DOWNSTAIRS WC
- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- IDEAL INVESTMENT RENTAL £550pcm

£117,995

LOVE LANE, RUGELEY

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- QUIET CANAL SIDE LACATION
- SHOWER ROOM
- WALKING DISTANCE TO TOWN
- LPG GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- OFF ROAD PARKING SPACE

£37,500

Balfour House, High Green

- Ground floor apartment
- Open plan kitchen / Lounge
- Double bedroom
- Shower room
- Town centre location
- Available now

£450pcm Sorry no dss & no pets

Willowbrook Court, Hednesford

- First floor apartment
- Open plan kicthen / lounge
- One double bedroom
- Bathroom with shower over bath
- Allocated parking
- Available now.

£505pcm Sorry no dss & no pets

Beecroft Court, Cannock

- Brand new apartments
- Open plan kitchen/lounge
- Bathroom with shower over bath
- Furnished/unfurnished available
- Allocated parking
- Selection of apartments available

Prices starting from £525.00pcm

Belt Road, Cannock

- Traditional semi detached
- Large lounge with woodburner
- Fitted kitchen
- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Off road parking

£650pcm Sorry no pets and no DSS

Hilton Road, Featherstone

- Semi detached home
- Kitchen / diner
- Large lounge
- Three bedrooms
- Garage & parking
- Available March 2018

£675pcm Sorry no DSS & no pets

Coppice Lane, Cheslyn Hay

- Detached bungalow
- Large lounge
- Two double bedrooms
- Recently decorated throughout
- Driveway & Garage
- Available now

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CHESLYN HAY
KESTREL WAY

Detached House	Gas Central Heating
Lounge	Double Glazing
Dining Room	Rear Garden
Kitchen	Garage
4 Bedrooms	EPC Rating D
Bathroom	

£255,000

CANNOCK
NEWHALL STREET

Traditional Detached House	3 Bedrooms
Lounge	Bathroom
Kitchen Diner	Gas Central Heating
2nd Reception Room	Double Glazing
Guest WC	Allocated Parking
	EPC Rating D

£210,000

CHESLYN HAY
LITTLEWOOD LANE

Semi Detached House	Bathroom
Lounge	Gas Central Heating
Kitchen	Double Glazing
Utility Room	Rear Garden
4 Bedrooms	Driveway
	Awaiting EPC

£190,000

WEDGES MILLS
THE MEADOWS

Town House	Conservatory
Lounge	GCH & DG
Kitchen	Rear Garden
3 Bedrooms	Parking
Bathroom	EPC Rating C
Guest WC	

£179,995

HEATH HAYES
HELIGAN PLACE

Terrace House	Double Glazing
Lounge	Rear Garden
Kitchen	Parking
2 Bedrooms	EPC Rating C
Bathroom	
Gas Central Heating	

£129,995

HEDNESFORD
TRENT HOUSE

First Floor Flat	Double Glazing
Lounge	Parking
Kitchen	EPC Rating C
2 Bedrooms	
Bathroom	
Gas Central Heating	

£89,995

CHESLYN HAY
COPPICE CLOSE

Unfurnished	Bathroom
Semi Detached	GCH & DG
Lounge	Garage
Dining Room	Garden
Kitchen	EPC Rating E
3 Bedrooms	

£725 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

HEDNESFORD
BROMLEY CLOSE

Unfurnished	Family Bathroom
Semi Detachd House	GCH & DG
Lounge	Rear Garden
Kitchen Diner	Parking
3 Bedrooms	EPC Rating D
En Suite	

£650 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

BLOXWICH
STONEY LANE

Unfurnished	Gas Central Heating
Town House	Double Glazing
Lounge	Garden
Kitchen	Parking
3 Bedrooms	EPC Rating B
2 Bathrooms	

£650 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

CANNOCK
WOOTTONS COURT

2nd Floor Flat	Protected Access
Lounge	Allocated Parking
Kitchen	Sold with Sitting
1 Bedroom	Tenant
Bathroom	EPC Rating D
Electric Heating	

£79,995

CANNOCK
WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD

INVESTMENT	Shower Room
PURCHASE	Double Glazing
Protected Access	Parking
Lounge	EPC Rating C
Kitchen	
1 Bedroom	

£71,995

WIMBLEBURY
HAMILTON CLOSE

First Floor Flat	Double Glazing
Lounge	Spacious Loft
Kitchen	Parking
1 Bedroom	EPC Rating D
Bathroom	
Electric Heating	

£65,000

BRIDGTOWN
ROMAN COURT A5

Unfurnished	Protected Access
Executive Apartments	Parking
Lounge	AVAILABLE MID
Kitchen	MARCH
2 Bedrooms	REGISTER
Bathroom	INTEREST NOW

£625 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

CANNOCK
WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD

Unfurnished	2 Bedrooms
Semi Detached	Bathroom
House	Gas Central Heating
Lounge	Double Glazing
Dining Room	Rear Garden
Kitchen	Awaiting EPC

£595 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

HEDNESFORD
GREENWOOD PARK

Unfurnished	Bathroom
Semi Detached	Gas Central Heating
House	Double Glazing
Lounge	Rear Garden
Kitchen	Parking
2 Bedrooms	EPC Rating C

£575 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

HEATH HAYES
DEAVALL WAY

Unfurnished	Bathroom
Semi Detached	Electric Heating
House	Double Glazing
Lounge	Rear Garden
Kitchen	Parking
2 Bedrooms	AWAITING EPC

£525 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

HEATH HAYES
THE HEATH

Unfurnished	Electric Heating
2nd Floor Flat	Double Glazing
Lounge	Parking
Kitchen	EPC Rating C
2 Bedrooms	
Bathroom	

£525 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

WIMBLEBURY
NELSON DRIVE

Unfurnished	Electric Heating
First Floor Flat	Double Glazing
Lounge	Parking
Kitchen	EPC Rating D
1 Bedroom	
Bathroom	

£425 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

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Research shows property sales still not back to pre-crash levels

A decade on from the global financial crisis property sales in the UK have still not recovered to anywhere close to pre-2008 levels, according to a new analysis of Land Registry data.

The research shows that there were on average 43,898 sales each month between January 1995 and December 2007 compared to just 27,023 between January 2008 and the present.

The highest single month for sales was May 2002 where 61,904 transactions were completed and the lowest number was 11,740 in January 2009, according to the analysis from online estate agent House Simple.

This is in stark contrast to the number of properties sold during 2002, with three of the top four biggest months for completed property transactions in this year, and all three months seeing property sales exceed 60,000.

March 2016 was the only month since the financial crisis that features in the top 100 months, with 56,183 completed property sales registered by the Land Registry.

The worst month since 1995 for completed property transactions was February 2009, with just 3,251 properties sold. This compares with the best month, July 1999, when there were 18,420 completed transactions.

Crisis

"These figures show the lasting impact the global financial crisis has had on the UK property market. Although monthly numbers have recovered and are more than twice the level they were in 2009, completed transactions still appear extremely low," said expert Sam Mitchell.

The figures show, for example, that in September 2017 there were 25,477 completed transactions, more than 18,000 less than average monthly sales before 2008.

"It is worth bearing in mind that leading up to the financial crisis in 2008, we were seeing a countrywide, and unsustainable buying frenzy. Since the crash, and post-2009 when pretty much every UK town and city saw property transactions hit rock bottom, you could say that many regional property markets have been operating at a level that is more sustainable," Mitchell explained.

However, London is the major exception, as the reaction to the global crash was an influx of overseas buyers looking for a safe haven for their money and crazy price growth. "But even the London market has now slowed, and we are seeing more sensible buyer and seller activity.

"It feels like the UK housing market has entered a new era; one based on strong fundamentals not panic and an obsession with capital growth," Mitchell concluded.

Rising costs see young buyers less likely to have own home

Only a quarter of young people with middle incomes now own a home in the UK, down from two thirds 20 years ago, a new report reveals.

Those aged 25 to 34 have been hit hard by rising prices which have increased much more than incomes, according to the report from the Institute of Fiscal Studies.

Overall, whether they are rich or poor, today's young adults are much less likely to own their own home than those in their place one or two decades ago. But the biggest decline in home ownership has been among young adults with middle incomes. In 1995/1996, some 65 per cent of 25 to 34 year olds with incomes in the middle 20 per cent for their age owned their own home. By 2015/2016, just 27 per cent of that group owned their own home.

This group of young adults have after tax incomes of between £22,200 and £30,600 per year, a third of them are university graduates, 75 per cent live with a partner, and around 60 per cent have children.

The research found that those born in the late 1980s are much less likely to be home owners in their late 20s than their immediate predecessors. Indeed, 25 per cent of those born in the late 1980s owned their own home at the age of 27, compared to 33 per cent for those born five years earlier in the early 1980s and 43 per cent for those born 10 years earlier in the late 1970s.

The proportion of 25 to 34 year olds who own their own home has dropped by over 10 per cent in every region. It means that the home ownership rate of middle income young adults is now closer to those with low incomes than those with high incomes. Some 27 per cent of middle income 25 to 34 year olds owned a home in 2015/2016 compared to eight per cent of those with low incomes and 64 per cent of those with high incomes.

It points out that 20 years ago, middle income young adults had home ownership rates much more similar to high income young adults and says that this sharp decline in home ownership among young adults has been driven by the rapid rise in house prices relative to their incomes.

Over the past two decades average house prices have grown around seven times faster than the average incomes of young adults. The average UK house price was 152 per cent higher in 2015/2016 as in 1995/1996 after adjusting for inflation, but the average after tax family income of 25 to 34 year olds grew by only 22 per cent in real terms over those 20 years.

For nearly 90 per cent of 25 to 34 year olds, average house prices in their region are more than four times their annual income after tax and for nearly 40 per cent house prices are more than 10 times their income.

However, 20 years ago, less than half of young adults faced house prices of more than four times their income, and less than 10 per cent faced house prices of more than 10 times their income.

The institute says that this dramatic rise in house prices relative to the incomes of young adults fully explains the falls in home ownership. Comparing a young adult today with a young adult 20 years ago whose income was similar relative to house prices, they are equally likely to own their home. The fall in home ownership is entirely explained by the fact that young adults' incomes are now much lower relative to house prices on average.

Annual review reveals slowdown in house price growth in 2017

House prices in the UK grew more slowly in 2017 compared with 2016, up 48 per cent compared with a seven per cent increase in the previous years, according to an annual review of the data.

On a calendar year basis, that is the lowest rise since 2013 and while house price growth slowed in 2017, sales volumes were also hit, remaining flat overall, the Land Registry review shows.

The slowdown at the national level, however, does hide a wide variation in growth rates between regions and countries. For example, while for some the change between 2016 and 2017 is relatively small, by comparison, the annual growth in the south of England nearly halved from 9.5 per cent in 2016 to 5.1 per cent in 2017.

While the Southern regions of England may have started to experience slower house price growth during 2017, there remains a large difference in terms of average house price levels across different regions. The average house price in the North East in December 2017 was £131,000 compared with £484,000 in London.

The slowdown in the south of England is most evident in London. Historically, house price growth in London has consistently been above that of the UK. However, since March 2016 there has been a sharp slowdown in the London house price annual growth rate which has continued to slow through 2017.

For the whole of 2017 the UK house price annual growth rate has exceeded that of London. While London house prices are now increasing at a much slower rate than seen historically it still remains by far the most expensive region of the UK.

£45million pledge to help building projects

A £45 million cash injection has been announced by the British Government to support the building of over 7,000 homes in 79 projects on council-owned land across England.

The Land Release Fund money will allow councils to unlock land for key community projects with some 7,280 new homes from Newcastle to Plymouth. Housing Minister Dominic Raab said that the fund aims to help councils unlock enough of land they own for at least 160,000 homes by 2020. The money will be used to combat barriers which would otherwise make land unusable for development.

The fund will pay for a range of necessary works such as asbestos removal and bat alleviation, as well as schemes that will significantly improve quality of life such as essential relocating of a pelican crossing and the building of roads.

"We are investing £45 million to build roads and provide utilities, so councils can release the land to get up to 7,280 new homes built. We're determined to make buying or renting more affordable for young families and those on low or middle incomes," Raab said.

The Land Release Fund is being administered through a partnership with the Local Government Association and Cabinet Office's One Public Estate (OPE) programme, which make the best use of council land and resources through practical advice and support. OPE already works with over 70 per cent of councils in England to transform local communities and services through large scale economic growth, delivering new jobs and new homes.

Well presented dormer-style property on corner plot in a popular area is on sale with no chain

This well presented three-bedroomed dormer-style property in Darwin Close, Burntwood, is set on a corner plot within a popular residential area.

It is for sale through Lovett & Co at £205,000 with no chain.

The stand-out features of the property include a superb high spec fitted kitchen with granite work tops, a spacious lounge, two large double bedrooms on the first floor plus a further good sized double bedroom/

BURNTWOOD £205,000

dining room on the ground floor, a low maintenance private rear garden, an integral garage and a driveway with parking for three vehicles. Other benefits include the potential to easily extend the property creating another bedroom and bathroom on the first floor, said a spokesman for the selling agents.

The property is well placed to take full advantage of local shopping facilities, together with a range of further facilities including: doctors surgery, superstore, good local schooling, library and excellent leisure facilities. Commuter benefits include A5, A38 and the M6 toll Road linking the Midlands Motorway network and there are both Cross and Inter City railway lines available from Lichfield Cathedral City.

Contact Lovett & Co on 01543 889410 or visit www.lovettco.co.uk

This three-bedroomed detached property is positioned in a pleasant cul-de-sac location

Positioned in a quiet cul-de-sac, this well presented three-bedroomed detached property in Wallace Close, Cannock, is for sale through Marwood Homes at £170,000.

Set in a pleasant cul-de-sac location within the heart of Norton Canes the property is within easy reach of local schools and amenities. It is conveniently placed with access to the A5, M6 and the M6 Toll Road.

In more detail it has an entrance

CANNOCK £170,000

porch/hall with tiled flooring and stairs off.

The lounge/diner is dual aspect with a bow window to the front, a fireplace, under-stairs storage and sliding patio doors to the conservatory with tiled flooring.

The kitchen includes an electric oven and a gas hob with an extractor over and has tiled flooring.

Upstairs are the three bedrooms and a bathroom which is fully tiled and includes a bath with a shower over.

The rear garden has a lawn area and slabbed patio area and a side gate to the side driveway and garage.

Contact Marwood Homes on 01543 500700.

ESTATE AGENTS SURVEYORS & LETTING AGENTS

Southwells

TEL: 01889 582137

17 Upper Brook Street, Rugeley, Staffs

NEW

Armitage Road, Rugeley

A 3 Storey, 4 Bedroom Detached House

- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Ground Floor WC
- Two Bedrooms with En-Suites
- Fully Enclosed Rear Garden
- Garage & Parking

£298,500

NEW

Timbertops The Pingle Slitting Mill Rugeley

A Three/Four Bedroom Detached Dormer Bungalow

- Occupying pprox. quarter of an a acre plot
- Oil fuelled central heating
- Double Glazing
- Large Driveway
- Gardens with spectacular views

£410,000

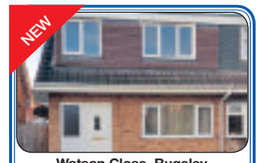
NEW

Tithebarn Road, Rugeley

A Three Bedroom Semi-Detached House

- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Bathroom
- Ground Floor WC / Utility
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Driveway & Attached Garage

£169,950



NEW

Watson Close, Rugeley

A 3 Bedroom semi-detached House

- Double glazing
- Gas central heating
- 3 Bedrooms
- Kitchen, Bathroom
- Front and rear enclosed gardens

£139,950

Hednesford Road, Rugeley

A Three Bedroom Traditional Detached House

- Three Reception Rooms
- Downstairs Shower Room
- Kitchen & Bathroom
- Detached Workshop and sheds
- Driveway & Large Rear Garden

£215,000

REDUCED

Avonlea Gardens Rugeley

A Refurbished Two Bedroom Semi Detached Bungalow

- UPVC Double Glazed
- Gas Central Heating
- Fitted Kitchen
- Situated On A Popular Residential Estate
- Vacant Possession

£159,995

Ti-Arwil, Keystone Lane, Rugeley

Trtaditional 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached House

- Part Double Glazed
- Lounge & Dining Room
- Kitchen & Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens & Driveway Parking
- Single Car Garage & Outside W.C

£163,000

Burnthill Lane Rugeley

A Four Bedroom Executive Detached House

- Gas Central Heating
- UPVC Double Glazing
- Conservatory
- Dining Room
- Integral Garage

£245,000

Fernwood Drive Rugeley

A Two Bedroom End Terrace House

- Ideal For Investor Or First Time Buyer
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Allocated Car Parking Space
- Fully Enclosed Rear Garden

£118,500

TO LET

Hednesford Road - Commercial Property

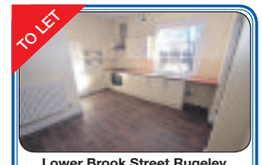
A Ground Floor Retail Unit

- Main Road Frontage
- Total retail floor area 33.5sqm
- Kitchenette
- Toilet
- Subsidiary area to rear

£7250PA

Attention Landlords

We have Tenants Waiting to Rent Your Property



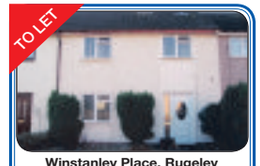
TO LET

Lower Brook Street Rugeley

An unfurnished three bedroom apartment

- Gas central heating
- Situated over two floors
- No smoking
- No housing benefit
- No pets
- FEES APPLY

£550 PCM



TO LET

Winstanley Place, Rugeley

A 3 Bedroom Mid Terrace House

- Gas Central Heating
- Part Double Glazing
- Kitchen & Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Rear gated access

£550 PCM

TO LET

Keystone Mews, Rugeley

A 1 Bedroom 1st Floor Apartment

- Lounge
- Bathroom
- Kitchen
- Close to town centre
- Parking Space

£425PCM

TO LET

Sheep Fair, Rugeley

A 1 Bedroom 2nd Floor Flat

- Town Centre Location
- Lounge
- Kitchenette
- Bedroom with built in wardrobe
- Bathroom

£400 PCM

OFT

The Home of Property

www.phillipsouthwellestatesltd.co.uk

Email: southwellssales@gmail.com

Webbs
Estate Agents

01543
468846

153 Avon Road
Cannock WS11 1LF

E: sales@webbsestateagents.co.uk
W: webbsestateagents.co.uk

Free Valuations

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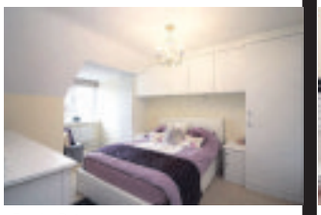
Experienced Sales Team

Established 1994

NEW

HEDNESFORD
ELIZABETH ROAD

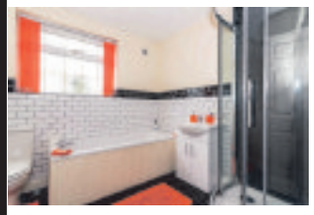


- Deceptively Spacious
- Lounge/Diner
- Kitchen, WC
- 3 Double Bedrooms
- En Suite to Beds 1&2
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Viewing Recommended

£179,995

NEW

WEDGES MILLS
WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD



- Deceptvely Spacious
- Versatile Property
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Modern Fitted Kitchen
- Games Room
- 5 Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Ample Parking

£270,000

NEW

CANNOCK
ROWAN CLOSE

- Modern Semi
- Lounge Diner
- Guest WC
- Kitchen
- 2 Double Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Allocated Parking

£140,000

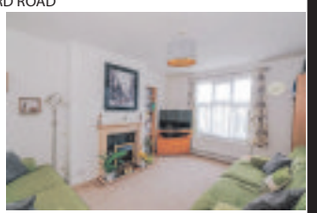
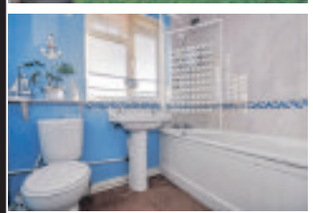
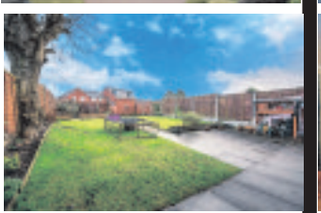
NEW

HEDNESFORD
RAILWAY VIEW

- Spacious Detached
- 3 Storey
- Kitchen/Diner
- 4 Bedrooms
- En-Suite to Bed 1
- Det. Garage, Driveway
- Enclosed Rear Garden

£245,000

CANNOCK
STAFFORD ROAD

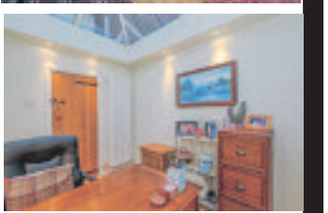




- Deceptively Spacious
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Spacious Kitchen
- 3 Bedrooms
- Large Rear Garden
- Parking to the Rear
- Close to Cannock
- Parking to the Rear

£140,000

REDUCED

GREAT WYRLEY
WALSALL ROAD



- Stunning Period Property
- Generous Parking to Rear
- Lounge/Dining Room
- Snug, Study
- Orangery, Sun Room
- 5 Bedrooms
- 2 Bathrooms
- Viewing Essential

£300,000

HUNTINGTON
WOODSTOCK DRIVE

PUBLIC NOTICE
Webbs Estate Agents are now in reciept of an offer for the sum of £157,000 for 8 Woodstock Drive, Huntington, Cannock, WS12 4TB. Anyone wishing to place an offer on this property should contact Webbs Estate Agents, 153 Avon Road, Cannock, WS11 1LF before exchange of contracts.

GREAT WYRLEY
SAXON CLOSE

- End Terrace Bungalow
- Open Views To Rear
- Hallway, Lounge
- Breakfast Kitchen
- 2 Bedrooms
- Shower Room
- Gardens
- Viewing Essential

£139,950

HEATH HAYES
EDEN CLOSE

- Well Presented Family Home
- Good School Catchment
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- 3 Bedrooms
- Refitted Bathroom

£200,000

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Estate Agents

Sales & Lettings

Say Hello

Great Wyrley 01922 701001
185 Walsall Road, Great Wyrley WS6 6NL

Burntwood 01543 686444
1 Lichfield Road, Burntwood WS7 0HQ

paulcarrestateagents.co.uk

Burntwood Office - £435,000

BURNTWOOD - ASHMOLE AVENUE

- Impressive detached residence
- Sought after residential location
- Immaculate decor throughout
- Off road parking & garage

4 | 2 | D

Great Wyrley Office - £289,950

WILLENHALL, STROUD AVENUE

- Impressive detached property
- Immaculate, contemporary interiors
- Three reception rooms
- Ample off-road parking

4 | 2 | D

Burntwood Office - £270,000

BURNTWOOD, GARRICK RISE

- Detached family residence
- Through lounge/diner
- Refitted kitchen & bathroom
- Cul-de-Sac location

4 | 1 | D

Burntwood Office - £250,000

CHASE TERRACE, MORLEY ROAD

- Spacious dormer bungalow
- Prime residential location
- Open plan breakfast / diner
- Ample off road parking

4 | 1 | D

Burntwood Office - £200,000

BURNTWOOD, LAMBERT DRIVE

- Link detached bungalow
- Popular residential location
- Spacious lounge
- Driveway & garage

2 | 1 | D

Burntwood Office - £180,000

BURNTWOOD, TUDOR CLOSE

- Semi-detached residence
- Cul-de-Sac location
- Through lounge, conservatory
- Utility area off lobby

3 | 1 | C

Great Wyrley Office - £175,000

GREAT WYRLEY, WALSALL ROAD

- Well proportioned semi
- Requires some updating
- Beautiful rear garden
- No onward chain

2 | 1

Great Wyrley Office - £135,000

GREAT WYRLEY, WALSALL ROAD

- Semi-detached house
- Requires modernisation throughout
- Good sized rear garden. Garage
- No onward chain

3 | 1

Great Wyrley Office - Offers In the Region of £129,950

GREAT WYRLEY, WALSALL ROAD

- Traditional Semi
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Bathroom & Shower Room
- Very Highly Recommended

2 | 1 | E

Burntwood Office - £128,000

BURNTWOOD, UDEN HOUSE

- Modern 2nd floor apartment
- Immaculate interiors
- Two good sized bedrooms
- Allocated parking space

2 | 1 | B

Great Wyrley Office - £99,950

BRIDGTOWN, UNION STREET

- End-terraced period property
- Ideal for FTB / investor
- Close to Cannock's amenities
- No onward chain

2 | 1 | D

Great Wyrley Office - £80,000

SUMMER HAYES, BRIDGNORTH

- Well presented maisonette
- Pleasant Cul-de-Sac location
- Enclosed rear garden
- Short lease - cash buyers only

2 | 1

Free market appraisal | No sale, no let, no fee | Online floorplans | Property matching service | Free mortgage advice | Conveyancing service | Home surveys | Removal service

With you every step of the way

Jayman

Rugeley
01889 358689

Cannock
01543 505566

Bryans Way, Cannock

Offers Around £130,000

Semi Detached Property	Kitchen
Two Bedrooms	Rear Garden
Lounge / Diner	Awaiting EPC

Field Street, Cannock

Offers Over £125,000

Semi Detached Property	Dining Room
Two Bedrooms	Rear Garden
Lounge	EPC E

Walters Close, Hednesford

Offers Over £175,000

Semi Detached Property	Kitchen
Three Bedrooms	Rear Garden
Lounge	EPC B

Trent Road, Cannock

Offers Around £135,000

Semi Detached Property	Kitchen
Two Bedrooms	Off Road Parking
Lounge / Diner	Awaiting EPC

Greenslade Grove, Hednesford

Offers Around £82,500

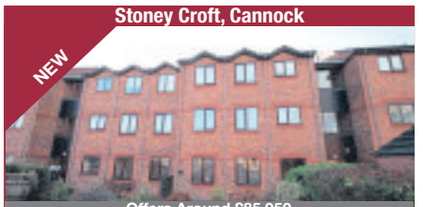
Well Presented Flat	Kitchen
One Bedroom	Communal Garden
Lounge	EPC D

River View, Penkridge

New Build
Two Bedrooms
Lounge / Diner
Kitchen
Shared Ownership from
25% - 75%
EPC B

40% Shared Ownership Price £78,000

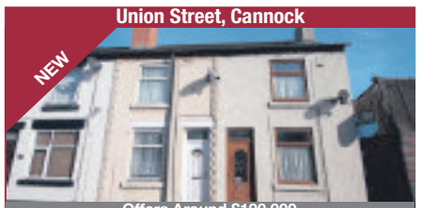
Stoney Croft, Cannock



Offers Around £85,950

Top Floor Apartment	Kitchen
Two Bedrooms	Allocated Parking
Lounge	EPC D

Union Street, Cannock



Offers Around £100,000

End Terrace Property	Kitchen
Two Bedrooms	Bathroom
Lounge	EPC D

Bank Street, Cannock

Offers Around £140,000

Terraced Property	En Suite
Three Bedrooms	Rear Garden
Lounge	EPC F

Sunley Drive, Hednesford

Offers Around £160,000

Semi Detached Property	Kitchen
Three Bedrooms	Garage
Lounge	EPC G

Shire Close, Cannock

Offers Around £190,000

Semi Detached Property	Bathroom, En Suite
Three Bedrooms	Off Road Parking
Lounge	EPC B

Canon Lane, Rugeley

Offers Around £209,950

Detached Property	Kitchen
Three Bedrooms	Rear Garden
Lounge	EPC C

The Meadows, Cannock

Offers Over £230,000

Detached Property	Kitchen
Three Bedrooms	NO CHAIN
Lounge	EPC C

Girton Road, Cannock

Offers Around £46,000

Ground Floor Flat	Kitchen
Two Bedrooms	40% Shared Ownership
Lounge	EPC D

Fourlands Avenue, Sutton Coldfield

Offers Around £300,000

Detached Property	Dining Room
Three Bedrooms	Garage
Lounge	Awaiting EPC

Free Valuations

Covering: Cannock, Hednesford, Rugeley, Lichfield, Burntwood, Tamworth and Brownhills

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The UK's number one property website

ARLA

MIDLANDS ESTATE AGENCY of the YEAR 2013

MIDLANDS LETTINGS AGENCY of the YEAR 2013

THE SUNDAY TIMES
THE TIMES

Rugeley
01889 358689

Jayman

Cannock
01543 505566

Earlswood Way, Cannock

Offers Around £70,000

Second Floor Apartment	Kitchen
Two Bedrooms	60% Shared Ownership
Lounge	EPC C

Sherbrook Road, Cannock

Detached Property
Four Bedrooms
Three Reception Rooms
Off Road Parking
Corner Plot
EPC D

Offers Around £315,000

Flat 6 Wolverhampton road

Offers Over £70,000

Second Floor Apartment	Refurbished
Two Double Bedrooms	Sold With Tenant
Lounge / Diner	EPC E

New Road, Featherstone

Offers Around £80,000

Park Home	Kitchen
Two Bedrooms	Garden
Lounge	Off Road Parking

Matthews Drive, Cannock

Mid Terraced Property
Two Bedrooms
Brand New
Shared Ownership from
25% - 75%
Off Road Parking
EPC B

40% Shared Ownership Price £64,000

Hobby Way, Cannock

Offers Around £109,950

Ground Floor Apartment	Bathroom
Two Bedrooms	Allocated Parking
Kitchen / Diner	EPC C

Sycamore Green, Cannock

Offers Around £135,000

Semi Detached Property	Kitchen / Diner
Two Bedrooms	Utility Room
Lounge	EPC C

Greenheath Road, Hednesford

Offers Around £165,000

Terraced Property	Kitchen
Two Bedrooms	Veranda
Two Reception Rooms	EPC E

Hallum Way, Hednesford

Offers Around £170,000

Semi Detached Property	Kitchen
Two Bedrooms	Off Road Parking
Lounge/Diner	EPC B

John Street, Cannock

Offers Around £185,000

Domer Semi Detached Bungalow	Rear Garden
Four Bedrooms	Garage
Fitted Kitchen	EPC E

Uttoxeter Road, Handsacre

Offers Around £190,000

End Terrace Property	Off Road Parking
Three Bedrooms	NO CHAIN
Two Bathrooms	EPC C

Far Lady Croft, Armitage

Offers Around £192,500

Town House Property	Fitted Kitchen
Four Bedrooms	Off Road Parking
Lounge / Diner	EPC B

Woodmill, Yoxall

Offers Around £200,000

Terraced Cottage	Rear Garden
Two Bedrooms	Rural Location
Kitchen/Diner	EPC E

Lakeside Drive,Norton Canes

Offers Over £210,000

Three/Four Bedrooms	Large Rear Garden
Lounge	Garage
Dining Room/Study	EPC E

Free Valuations

Covering: Cannock, Hednesford, Rugeley, Lichfield, Burntwood, Tamworth and Brownhills

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MIDLANDS ESTATE AGENCY of the YEAR 2013

MIDLANDS LETTINGS AGENCY of the YEAR 2013

THE SUNDAY TIMES THE TIMES

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Subject to a minimum fee of £900 inc vat

NO SALE - NO FEE

SALES LETTINGS MANAGEMENT AUCTIONS SURVEYS COMMERCIAL EPC's

8 COLLIERS WAY, HUNTINGTON

NEW PRICE

WELL EQUIPPED FOUR BEDROOMED MID MEWS HOUSE Offering Accomodation On Three Floors located In Popular Position

- Reception hall & cloakroom with Wc
- Lounge/dining area
- Fitted kitchen
- Two first floor bedrooms and ensuite shower room
- Two second floor bedrooms
- Family bathroom
- Garage & gardens
- Gas central heating & fully double glazed
- EPC rating C (79)

£189,950 FREEHOLD

33 TRURO PLACE, HEATH HAYES

A SUPERB CONSIDERABLY IMPROVED FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED HOUSE Occupying Corner Plot In Sought After Residential Area

- Recessed porch & entrance hall
- Lounge/dining room
- Dining kitchen & utility room
- UPVC double glazed conservatory
- Four bedrooms
- Refitted ensuite shower room & family bathroom
- Integral garage & landscaped gardens
- Fully double glazed
- Gas central heating
- EPC rating D (61)

£299,950 FREEHOLD

208 LONGFORD ROAD, CANNOCK

NEW PRICE

CONSIDERABLY IMPROVED EXTENDED THREE BEDROOMED DETACHED FAMILY HOUSE Located In Much Sought After Residential Area of Cannock Conveniently Located For Facilities

- Reception hall
- Cloaks/shower room
- Lounge
- plan refitted dining/ family/kitchen
- Three bedrooms
- Refitted bathroom
- Built on garage and gardens
- Gas fired central heating
- Fuilly double glazed
- EPC rating C (71)

£279,950 FREEHOLD

14 BRINDLEY BANK ROAD, RUGELEY

INDIVIDUALLY DESIGNED TWO BEDROOMED DETACHED BUNGALOW Located in Popular Cul-De-Sac

- Reception hall
- Lounge
- Dining kitchen
- Two double bedrooms
- Ensuite shower room
- Bathroom
- Gardens and off road parking
- Gas fired central heating
- Fully double glazed
- EPC rating B (81)

Offers in excess of £200,000 FREEHOLD

YOU CAN VIEW ALL OF OUR RENTAL PROPERTIES ON www.bootandson.co.uk

5 WAVENEY GROVE, CANNOCK.

NEW PRICE

CONSIDERABLY EXTENDED AND IMPROVED FIVE BEDROOMED DETACHED FAMILY HOUSE Located In Popular Cul-De-Sac In Much Sought After Residential Area of The Town

- Vestibule
- Lounge and dining room
- Kitchen
- Rear porch, cloakroom with WC
- Five bedrooms
- En-suite shower room and refitted bathroom
- Integral garage and well stocked gardens
- Gas fired central

£375,000 FREEHOLD

11 SUSSEX DRIVE, HEDNESFORD

NO CHAIN

THREE BEDROOMED SEMI DETACHED HOUSE Located In Popular Cul-De-Sac Convenient For Facilities at Hednesford Town Centre

- Side entrance hall
- Lounge
- Breakfast kitchen
- Landing
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Garage
- Gardens
- Part gas fired central heating
- EPC rating D (60)

£145,000

ENTRIES INVITED FOR OUR NEXT AUCTION 26TH MARCH 2018

8A LITTLEWOOD ROAD, CHESLYN HAY

NEW PRICE NO CHAIN

DECEPTIVELY SPACIOUS THREE BEDROOMED DETACHED BUNGALOW RECENTLY CONSTRUCTED AND FITTED TO A HIGH SPECIFICATION Located In A Popular Residential Area In This Much Sought After South Staffordshire Village

- Reception hall
- Lounge
- Fitted kitchen
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Extensive off road parking
- Gardens
- Fully double glazed
- Gas fired central heating
- EPC rating B (82)

£219,950 FREEHOLD

16 WINDSOR ROAD, CHESLYN HAY

WELL EQUIPPED TWO BEDROOM MID TERRACED HOUSE In Sought After Location

- Enclosed porch & reception hall
- L shaped lounge/dining room
- Breakfat kitchen
- Landing
- Two bedrooms
- Shower Room
- Off road parking
- Gas central heating
- Fully double glazed
- EPC rating D (61)

£149,950

THE COTTAGE, BROADHURST GREEN ROAD, HEDNESFORD

TWO BEDROOMED DETACHED HOUSE WITH RANGE OF OUTBUILDINGS AND LAND EXTENDING TO APPROX 2.5 ACRES

- Open plan lounge/ kitchen area
- Bathroom
- Landing
- Two bedrooms
- Outside utility room
- Gas fired central heating
- Fully double glazed
- Extensive range of outbuildings
- Occupation subject to being solely or mainly employed in agriculture or forestry industry
- EPC rating E (47)

£310,000 FREEHOLD

40 OLD PENKRIDGE ROAD, CANNOCK

NO CHAIN

CONSIDERABLY EXTENDED, IMPROVED DETACHED FAMILY HOUSE WITH FLEXIBLE ACCOMMODATION INCLUDING SELF CONTAINED FLAT SUITABLE FOR EXTENDED FAMILY OCCUPYING MATURE WELL STOCKED GARDENS In Much Sought After Residential Area Adjoining Cannock Park To The Rear

- Two reception rooms
- Breakfast kitchen
- Games/hobby/play room
- Five bedrooms
- Two bathrooms
- Shower room
- Self contained flat (currently let on AST)
- Double integral garage
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- EPC rating D (66)

£615,000 FREEHOLD

9 STATION ROAD, PELSALL

A PRESTIGIOUS DEVELOPMENT OF AN INDIVIDUALLY DESIGNED FOUR BEDROOMED HOUSE Conveniently Located For Facilities at Pelsall Village Centre

- Two reception rooms
- Luxury fitted kitchen
- Cloakroom and first floor study
- Four bedrooms
- Family bathroom and 2 ensuites
- Garage and landscaped gardens
- Fully double glazed
- Gas fired central heating
- Intruder alarm
- EPC rating tbc

£310,000

4 BALMORAL COURT, BELT ROAD, HEDNESFORD

NO CHAIN

GROUND FLOOR TWO BEDROOMED FLAT Conveniently Located For Facilities

- Enclosed porch
- Reception hall
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Two bedrooms
- Allocated parking space
- Communal grounds
- Electric heating
- Fully double glazed
- EPC rating C (74)

£74,950 For 90% Share

FLAT 7 ROWAN CROFT, PRICE STREET, CANNOCK

NO CHAIN

WELL EQUIPPED GROUND FLOOR TWO BEDROOMED APARTMENT Located In Purpose Built Sheltered Housing Development Which Is Conveniently Located For Cannock Town Centre

- Entrance hall
- Lounge
- Refitted kitchen
- Two bedrooms
- Refitted wet room shower room
- Warden control system/security phone system
- Communal grounds
- Electric heating
- Fully double glazed
- EPC rating D (63)

£76,950

70 BEECH TREE LANE, CANNOCK

NO CHAIN

TWO BEDROOMED SEMI DETACHED BUNGALOW Located In Popular Residential Area of the Town

- Reception hall
- Lounge
- Breakfast kitchen
- Two double bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Garage and gardens
- Predominantly double glazed
- Gas fired central heating
- Intruder alarm
- EPC rating D (60)

£186,950 FREEHOLD

Three-bedroomed end of terraced property has a double garage and is in a sought-after location

This enhanced three-bedroomed end of terraced property in Alamein Way, Lichfield, is for sale through Jayman estate agents on £280,000.

It comes with a detached garage and lies in a well sought after location.

It sits close to all local schools, amenities, transport links and is within just a few minutes walk from the city centre. In brief the property comprises of an entrance hall, a

LICHFIELD
£280,000

lounge, a dining room, a kitchen, an orangery and a guest cloakroom/WC. To the first floor is the master bedroom with an en-suite, two further bedrooms and a family bathroom.

Outside there is a good sized rear garden and a detached garage. In more detail the lounge has a feature electric fire and double doors to the dining room, which in turn has double doors to the orangery.

The kitchen includes an integrated oven and an integrated hob with an extractor over. There is also an integrated fridge/freezer, integrated washer/dryer, integrated dishwasher, tiled flooring, part tiled walls and spotlights.

To book a viewing, call 01543 505566 or visit www.jayman.co.uk

Deceptively spacious and extended four-bedroomed semi-detached lies in a popular residential district

This deceptively spacious and extended four-bedroomed semi-detached house in Denbury Close, Cannock, lies in the popular residential area of Heath Hayes.

Being close to shops, amenities , public transport routes and in a good school catchment area, it is for sale through Flint & Co at £172,000.

In brief the accommodation comprises of an entrance hallway, a lounge, a kitchen, a dining room/playroom, a utility room, a guest

CANNOCK
£172,000

cloakroom/WC, four bedrooms, a family bathroom, driveway and a rear garden.

In more detail the entrance hall has stairs off, the lounge has a living flame gas fire in a marble-effect hearth and decorative surround.

The kitchen has an under stairs storage cupboard, a range of wall, base and drawer units with fitted work surfaces incorporating a sink drainer unit with mixer taps and spaces for appliances. There is also an inner hallway, the dining room/playroom, guest cloakroom/WC and utility on the ground floor.

The rear garden consists of a paved patio seating area with paved steps rising to a lawned garden and further decked seating area.

Call 01543 624400 for details.

flint & co
flintandco.com 01543 624400

HEATH HAYES
DENBURY CLOSE

- A four bedroom semi detaced house
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Lounge, dining room
- Kitchen, utility, guest cloakroom
- Family bathroom
- Garden to rear
- Driveway
- EPC rating E

£172,000

CANNOCK
BRUNSWICK ROAD

- A well presented 3 bedroom
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Lounge
- kitchen/diner, dining room
- Three bedrooms
- Refitted family bathroom
- Garden to rear
- Driveway
- Awaiting EPC rating

£145,000

CANNOCK
WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD

- Two bedroom Terraced
- Two Reception Rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen
- Family bathroom
- Off road parking, gargae
- Town centre location
- Rear Garden
- EPC rating E

£135,000

HEATH HAYES
SALISBURY DRIVE

- A three bedroom detached house
- Gas central heating and doubel glazing
- Entrance hallway
- Lounge, dining room
- Kitchen, utility, guest cloakroom
- Master bedroom with ensuite
- Family bathroom
- Garage, gardens, driveway
- Awaiting EPC rating

£235,950

CANNOCK
RUMER HILL ROAD

- A spacious 3 bedroom detached
- Split level lounge/diner, Kitchen/diner
- Guest cloakroom, utility
- Sitting room and conservatory
- Family bathroom
- Garden to rear, garage, driveway
- NO CHAIN
- Awaiting EPC rating

£230,000 Offers Over

CANNOCK
REDHILL ROAD

- One Bedroom
- Central heating
- Driveway, gated acess
- Modern fitted kitchen
- Modern bathroom
- Awaiting EPC rating
- NO CHAIN

£124,995

CHESLYN HAY
SWAN CLOSE

- A three bedroom semi detached
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Lounge, kitchen/diner
- Conservatory
- Master bedroom with built in wardrobes
- Two further bedrooms
- Refitted family bathroom
- Garden to rear
- Driveway

£179,950

CANNOCK
ST AIDANS ROAD

- A two bedroom semi detached house
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Lounge, kitchen/diner
- Two good sized bedrooms
- Family bathroom
- Garden to front
- Corner plot
- Enclosed rear garden
- Awaiting EPC rating

£124,950

HEATH HAYES
CANNOCK ROAD

- A traditional 3 bedroom property
- Entrance hallway/study area
- Lounge/diner
- Refitted kitchen/diner
- Utility, Guest cloakroom
- Master bedroom with en suite
- Refitttted family bathroom
- Garden to rear off road parking
- EPC rating E

£260,000

CANNOCK
BERWICK DRIVE

- A three bedroom semi detached house
- Gas central heating
- Lounge/diner
- Conservatory, kitchen
- Three good sized bedrooms
- Refitted shower room
- Good sized rear garden
- Awaiting EPC rating

£129,950

HEDNESFORD
CHAFFINCH CLOSE

- A two bedroom semi detached bungalow
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Lounge/diner
- Refitted kitchen
- Refitted shower room
- Conservatory, carport
- Garden to rear and side
- Driveway
- Awaiting EPC rating

£169,950

HEDNESFORD
LINDEN VIEW

- A three bedroom detached house
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Lounge, Kitchen/diner
- Conservatory/Utility area
- Master bedroom with built in wardrobes
- Family bathroom
- Garden to rear
- Driveway and garage
- EPC rating C

£199,950

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ACHILLIES CLOSE, GREAT WYRLEY

- Three Bed Semi
- Lounge, Kitchen
- Bathroom
- GCH & DG
- Gardens
- Energy Rating D
- NO DSS OR PETS

£625 pcm

LOVATT PLACE, CANNOCK

- 3 Bed Semi
- Lounge/Diner
- GCH/DG
- Off Road Parking
- Gardens
- Energy rating D
- No DSS/Pets

£625 pcm

SILVER FIR CLOSE, HEDNESFORD

- Two Bed Semi
- Lounge, Kitchen
- Shower Room
- GCH & DG
- Rear Garden
- Driveway
- Energy Rating D
- NO DSS OR PETS

£625 pcm

CANNOCK ROAD, HEATH HAYES

- 3 Bed Semi
- Lounge
- GCH/DG
- Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking
- Energy rating C
- No DSS/Pets

£690 pcm

MCGHIE STREET, HEDNESFORD

- Three Bed Detached
- Lounge, Kitchen
- Bathroom
- GCH & DG
- Gardens
- Driveway
- Energy Rating B
- NO DSS OR PETS

£695 pcm

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WATERMINT CLOSE, WIMBLEBURY

- An extremely well presented four bedroom detached family home
- Guest WC, lounge, dining room, conservatory
- Re-Fitted Kitchen & Utility
- Additional sitting room
- Four bedrooms, en-suite
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden & Ample Off Road Parking

OIRO £255,000

PARTRIDGE CLOSE, HUNTINGTON

- A well presented four bedroom detached family home
- Guest WC, Lounge, Dining Room
- Family Room, Re-Fitted Breakfast Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Four Good Sized Bedrooms
- Re-Fitted En-Suite & Family Bathroom
- Detached Garage & Ample Off

Offers in Excess of £250,000

TUTBURY CLOSE, HEATH HAYES

- An Extremely Well Presented Detached Bungalow positioned on a Corner Plot.
- Re-Fitted Kitchen, Lounge
- Re-Fitted Wet Room, Two Double Bedrooms
- Conservatory, Landscaped Rear Garden
- Ample Block Paved Driveway
- No Chain

OIRO £249,950

JUNIPER CLOSE, HAZELSLADE

- An Extended Well Presented Detached House With Open Aspect to Rear
- Guest WC, Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen, Three Double Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Gardens
- Garage & Ample Parking
- Popular Village Location

£229,950

WALSALL ROAD, CHURCHBRIDGE

- An Extremely Well Presented Three Bedroom Semi Detached House
- Reception Hall/ Dining Room, Lounge
- Modern Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms, Re-Fitted Bathroom
- Front and Delightful Rear Gardens
- Garage and Driveway

£210,000

RAWNSLEY ROAD, HEDNESFORD

- A traditional beautifully presented three bedroom semi detached house
- Reception Hall, Guest WC
- Two reception room, Conservatory
- Modern Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms, Modern Bathroom
- Delightful Rear Garden
- Ample off road parking & Garage

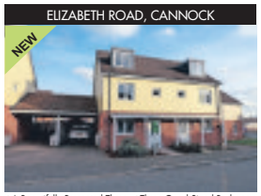
OIEO £200,000

WRENS CROFT, HEATH HAYES

- A Well Presented Semi Detached House
- Popular Residential Location Overlooking Nature Reserve
- Guest WC, Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen, Three Bedrooms
- En-Suite, Family Bathroom
- Two Parking Spaces
- Rear Garden

OIRO £189,950

ELIZABETH ROAD, CANNOCK



- A Beautifully Presented Three Storey Semi Detached House
- Entrance Hall, Guest WC
- Modern Kitchen, Spacious Lounge/Diner
- Three Good Sized Bedrooms
- Two En-Suites, Family Bathroom
- Delightful Rear Garden
- Driveway & Car Barn

£179,995

GLENDENE ROAD, HEDNESFORD

- A Well Presented Three Bedroom Semi Detached House
- Entrance Porch, Hallway
- Spacious Lounge, Re-Fitted Kitchen
- Dining Area
- Three Bedrooms, Re-Fitted Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Garage & Driveway

£175,000

STATION COURT, CANNOCK

- A beautifully presented two bed SEMI-deatched house
- Delightful Cul-De-Sac Location
- Guest WC, Modern Kitchen
- Spacious Lounge/Diner
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Two Allocated Parking

£153,000

WALNUT DRIVE, CANNOCK

- A well presented three ebdroom semi detached house
- GCH & D/G
- Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen/Diner
- Three Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Garage, Carport & Driveway
- Front and Rear Gardens
- NO CHAIN

£150,000

COPPERKINS ROAD, HEDNESFORD

- A Well Presented Three Bedroom Semi Detached House
- Entrance Porch, Spacious Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner, Utility Room
- Study
- Three Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Rear Garden & Gravel Parking to front

£149,995

ROWAN CLOSE, HUNTINGTON

- A Modern Well Presented Two Bedroom Semi Detached House
- Entrance Hall, Guest WC
- Kitchen, Spacious Lounge
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Bathroom, Delightful Rear Garden
- Two Parking Spaces

£140,000

ASCOT DRIVE, CANNOCK

- An extremely well presented semi detached house
- GCH & D/G
- Hallway, Spacious Lounge/Diner
- Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Delightful Rear Garden & Driveway

£135,000

GREIG COURT, HEATH HAYES

- A Well Presented Two Bedroom Semi Detached House
- Entrance Hall, Modern Kitchen
- Spacious Lounge
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Modern Bathroom
- Two Parking Spaces, Delightful Rear Garden

£129,950

UNION STREET, BRIDGTOWN

- Well presented ground floor apartment
- Lounge/Diner, 2 Double bedrooms
- Modern Kitchen
- En-suite & Bathroom
- Off road parking
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

OIEO £100,000

VINE COURT, CANNOCK

- Third floor retirement apartment
- Wide range of facilities within the complex
- Security intercom, Lift access
- Open plan lounge/kitchen
- Two bedrooms and wet room
- 24 hour care on hand
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

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Watermint Close
WIMBLEBURY

Well presented four bedroom detached family home / Enviable corner plot position at the end of a quiet & sought after cul-de-sac / Parking for several vehicles plus an adjoining double garage / Large

£300,000

Bramwell Drive
HEDNESFORD

Outstanding & immaculately presented four bedroom town house / Occupying a large corner plot / High spec finish throughout / Spacious open plan lounge-diner / Two en-suites

£280,000

Gorsemoor Road
HEATH HAYES

Immaculately presented and deceptively spacious four bedroom detached house / Set on large end plot / Generously extended on ground floor / Modern fitted high spec kitchen

£270,000

Littleworth Road
HEDNESFORD

Immaculately presented four bedroom semi-detached dormer style property / Extensive first floor conversion / Integral oversized garage / Large lounge with dining area / Breakfast Kitchen

£245,000

Asquith Drive
HEATH HAYES

Four bedroom detached house / Well established and sought after residential area / Spacious lounge and separate dining room / UPVC conservatory

£245,000

Corsican Drive
HEDNESFORD

Well presented four bedroom detached house / Set on sought after residential estate

£240,000

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£200,000	£4,320	£1,900	£2,420
£300,000	£6,480	£2,860	£3,630
£500,000	£10,800	£4,760	£6,050

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Streets Lane
CHESLYN HAY

Well presented and superbly maintained four bedroom detached family home / Sought after location / Superb spacious open plan lounge-diner / Integral garage and driveway

Offers in Excess of £230,000

Wade Lane
RUGELEY

Well presented three bedroom semi detached house / Set on good sized corner plot / highly sought after area / Spacious lounge / Kitchen-diner / Good sized low maintenance rear garden

£230,000

Walsall Road
BRIDGTOWN

Spacious extended four bedroom detached house / Set on a large plot / Spacious reception rooms and bedrooms / Large private rear garden which is not overlooked,

£225,000

Trent View Close
RUGELEY

Immaculately presented three bedroom semi-detached house / Large end corner plot in a quiet cul-de-sac / Spacious lounge and dining room / Two storey side extension with a modern kitchen / Three

£190,000

Strauss Drive
HEATH HAYES

Well presented three storey town house/ NO ONWARD CHAIN / Spacious living & sleeping accommodation / Modern fitted kitchen & bathroom / Victorian conservatory / Private rear garden / Driveway,

Offers in Excess of £175,000

Broadmeadow Lane
GREAT WYRLEY

Extremely well presented two bedroom end terrace house / Superb spacious open plan lounge-diner / Delightful conservatory / Modern fitted breakfast kitchen and bathroom

£155,000

Almond Close
HEATH HAYES

Two-three bedroom town house / Quiet cul-de-sac next to a peaceful nature reserve / Two double bedrooms / New drive for 4 vehicles / Spacious first floor lounge and breakfast kitchen / Ground floor

Offers in Excess of £150,000

Elder Close
HEATH HAYES

Two bedroom semi detached house / Set back from the road at the end of a private driveway / Spacious lounge and modern fitted kitchen-diner / Driveway for two vehicles / Good sized rear garden

£140,000

Goya Close
HEATH HAYES

Well p(resented two bedroom house / Quiet cul-de-sac / Private and well maintained rear garden / New windows throughout /Two double bedrooms

£137,995

Elizabeth Road
CANNOCK

Well presented two bedroom end terraced house / Spacious open plan lounge-diner / Modern fitted kitchen & bathroom / Two double bedrooms / Driveway for one vehicle

Offers in Excess of £135,000

Littleworth Road
RAWNSLEY

Traditional two bedroom mid terraced house / Peaceful semi rural location / Spacious reception rooms / Private rear courtyard and rear parking area for up to four vehicles

£130,000

Mount Street
HEDNESFORD

Well presented two bedroom semi detached / Set on a quiet end plot / Spacious lounge / Private rear garden / Two double bedrooms / Off road parking

£127,500

Matlock Drive
CANNOCK

Well presented three bedroom semi detached house / Overlooks quiet green to the front / Spacious open plan kitchen-diner / Good sized bedrooms / Contemporary bathroom suite & private rear garden

£125,000

Church View
BRERETON

Charming two bedroom terraced cottage / Spacious lounge / Large double bedroom plus a further good sized single / Private rear courtyard / Off road parking

£120,000

Frank Rogers Walk
RUGELEY

Well presented one bedroom semi detached bungalow / Set back from the road in a quiet location / Double bedroom / Modern fitted shower room / Private rear garden

£100,000

Uxbridge Street
HEDNESFORD

Two bedroom end terraced property / Dining room & kitchen / Small rear courtyard with shed & fenced borders

£95,000

Victoria Street
CHADSMOOR

One bedroom maisonette / Situated on first floor / Completely renovated throughout / Enclosed rear garden / Access gate leading to front of property

Offers in the Region Of £69,950

Arran Close
CANNOCK

Two bedroom ground floor apartment / Property is being sold with a sitting tenant / Rental income of £495 PCM / Exciting investment opportunity / Spacious lounge

Offers in Excess of £67,000

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MOTORING | YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO THE BEST CARS ON THE MARKET

Land Rover charges to Heaven's Gate with Range Rover Sport PHEV

A British car maker takes the new, electrified Range Rover Sport up the 999-step Dragon Road in China, becoming the first vehicle to drive to Heaven's Gate.

Land Rover has scaled one of China's toughest mountains using nothing more than a showroom-spec version of its latest high-performance SUV.

The Range Rover Sport PHEV is the first vehicle to reach the Heaven's Gate landmark top of Tianmen Mountain, having first taken on a treacherous seven-mile road — known locally as Dragon's Road —before climbing 999 steps and navigating 99 turns to reach its final destination.

Not a single modification was made to the vehicle, with the showroom-ready SUV simply utilising the Terrain Response 2 system to reach the top – piloted by Formula E driver Ho-Pin Tung, of Panasonic Jaguar Racing.

Ho-Pin Tung said: "I've experienced Formula E, Formula 1 and won at the 24 Hours of Le Mans but this was without doubt one of the most demanding driving challenges I've ever faced. The Range Rover Sport PHEV performed brilliantly as it inspired real confidence on the mountain road and climbed the stairs up to Heaven's Gate effortlessly."

Phil Jones, Land Rover Experience expert, said: "This was the hardest Range Rover Sport challenge I've ever been involved with because, until we reached the top, we couldn't categorically say we would succeed.

Taking on the 999-step Dragon Road in China in a showroom-spec PHEV SUV

By making it to the summit, we've proven the phenomenal capability of the Range Rover Sport plug-in hybrid like never before – with a genuine world first."

It's the not the first time Land Rover has used its vehicles to take on daring challenges. The firm took on the Pikes Peak hill climb in 2013 using a petrol Range Rover Sport, setting a record time for production SUVs.

The Range Rover Sport PHEV, for which UK order books are now open, is powered by a hybrid drivetrain consisting of a four-cylinder petrol engine and an 85kW electric motor. It develops a total of 398bhp and 640Nm of torque, capable of taking the car from 0-60mph in 6.5 seconds and up to a top speed of 137mph.

Prices start at £70,800.

The Range Rover Sport PHEV is the first vehicle to reach the Heaven's Gate landmark

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165.70-13	£30	195.65-15	£37	195.50-15	£35	225.45-17	£40
165.70-14	£34	185.60-14	£36	195.45-15	£40	205.50-17	£44
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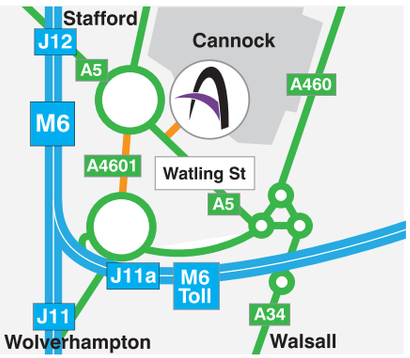

Internal combustion engines backed

New Mazda Driver Project research reveals continued support for the development of the internal combustion engine.

Mazda's multi-solution approach combines internal combustion engines with the latest electrification technologies.

With the increase in electric car development new research by Mazda has revealed that 55 per cent of UK drivers, and almost 60 per cent of European drivers, see a positive future for petrol and diesel engines.

The Mazda Driver Project research – commissioned together with Ipsos MORI – polled 11,008 people across key European markets and an average of 58 per cent believe there is "a lot of innovation and improvement still to come with petrol and diesel engines".

The headline results demonstrate that consumers don't necessarily share the view of many organisations that the internal combustion engine has no role to play in the future of cars.

This is further demonstrated by the fact that 29 per cent of UK drivers "hope that diesel cars will continue to exist" as electric cars become more common, 44 per cent hope that petrol will continue and 36 per cent of drivers stated that if running costs were the same as an electric car they would "prefer a petrol/diesel car".

Despite the gathering momentum behind autonomous vehicles, only 29 per cent of UK drivers "welcome the advent of self-driving cars"; against this backdrop, Mazda continues to progress its pioneering advanced safety features and Mazda Co-Pilot Concept, which uses autonomous driving technologies to give drivers peace of mind at the wheel. Perhaps surprisingly, there is virtually no evidence of greater support for self-driving cars in younger age groups across Europe.

Mazda is taking a wheel-to-wheel view

The findings arrive as Mazda ramps up its 'Sustainable Zoom-Zoom 2030' vision to combine the best of internal combustion engines with effective electrification technologies. Central to this ambition is SKYACTIV-X, the world's first commercial petrol engine to use compression ignition; this new engine combines the advantages of petrol and diesel engines to achieve outstanding environmental performance, power and acceleration performance.

Mazda Motor Europe's president and CEO Jeff Guyton said: "The research findings are fascinating. The whole basis of our long-running Drive Together campaign is to celebrate the sheer joy of driving, and it appears that European drivers see a long road ahead for the internal combustion engine – we are working hard to make that road an even better experience for drivers everywhere.

"We recently launched 'Sustainable Zoom-Zoom 2030', our long-term vision for technology development. In it, we set out how we plan to use driving pleasure to help solve issues facing people, the earth and society. In the case of greenhouse gas emissions, we believe it's necessary to have the right solution at the right time. For us this means taking a well-to-wheel view, and therefore today's most rational offering is a combination of internal combustion engines and electric devices which consider each market's energy situation and power generation methods. In this context, we are determined to perfect the internal combustion engine.

Consumers don't necessarily share the view of many organisations that the internal combustion engine has no role to play in the future

"As we seek to develop new technologies we will continue to put the driver at the heart of everything we do and focus on the bond between car and driver. We call this Jinba Ittai, which is the Japanese phrase used to describe the perfect harmony between the mounted archer and his horse. It is this human-centric philosophy that underpins our business and helps us create cars that bring the driver and their car closer together.

"Our aim is a motorised society free of traffic accidents. There are three main keys to realise this. First, we continue to advance safety fundamentals across our range – driving position, pedal layout, visibility and our Active Driving Display. Second, we continuously develop, update and make standard many advanced safety features such as Blind Spot Monitoring. Finally, we aim to make the Mazda Co-Pilot Concept, which uses autonomous driving technologies to allow drivers to enjoy driving with peace of mind, standard by 2025."

Mazda believes driving is a skill that people want to keep. It is an activity that can be fun as well as functional and many would like to see this skill retained for future generations. These sentiments are certainly evident in the research results which showed a significant emotional connection between car and driver. For example, an average of 69 per cent of drivers "hope that future generations will continue to have the option to drive cars" – the figure is as high as 74 per cent in Poland and 70 per cent or higher in the UK, Germany, France and Sweden.

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BM Automotive Solutions is now in its seventh year of trading and offers a high dealer level of service at a fraction of the dealer costs.

The business is located at Four Ashes, just five minutes from junction2 of the M54, and offers many facilities including a while you wait service with a waiting area offering WiFi and complementary refreshments.

BM Automotive Solutions opened its doors in 2012 as a brand new BMW and Mini specialist with a wealth of experience.

"We were sure we could offer a great service at competitive prices, and the firm has gone from strength-to-strength," said co-owner Mark.

"We have seen year-on-year growth through advertising and more importantly through word of mouth. But we haven't stood still over the past seven years.

"With continued investment in the latest specialist BMW and Mini tools as well as BMW's own ISTA Diagnostic software, we can continue to offer dealer level services and diagnostics, often performing tasks that many smaller garages cannot.

"This is shown simply by our capabilities to update even the latest BMW models with the electronic service history, something a lot of garages are now failing to do.

"Our aim is to offer a high dealer level of service at a fraction of the dealer costs."

The company also invested in the future two years ago by employing an apprentice who spends one day a week at college.

Owners Dave Dolman, Mark Russell and apprentice Rhys Jones

Check out the firm's average rating of 99.4 per cent on the good garage website at www.goodgaragesscheme.com/pages/garage.aspx/6152/B+M+Automotive+Solutions+Ltd

"The future is right for us, we will continue to invest and train in the latest technology BMW and Mini serve up, no doubt this will start to focus towards all electric models and hybrid models.

"We will carry out the latest training courses available to ensure we can continue to service and repair your vehicle regardless of the type of engine fitted.

"But we will also ensure we don't forget our past and we will continue to offer a first class service for all BMW and Mini models regardless of age and mileage!"

Peugeot 5008 SUV has right recipe

By Carmel Stewart

At this stage in our buying lives, money matters and, with a starting price of less than £24,500 and an excellent standard spec list, the new 5008 SUV from Peugeot ticks all the fiscal boxes and a few more besides.

Added to that is the fact that it is spacious, easy to drive, comfortable and, with room enough for seven, immensely practical.

If you are not a school-runner, don't be put off by the multiple seats. Such is the sophistication of this modern design that everything fits into a neat package 4.64m in length – that's just over 15 foot in old money – and those two rearmost seats neatly and easily drop into the boot floor when not in use.

The middle row individually adjusts backwards and forwards and can incline separately. The front seats may, at first sight, be off putting to those of us of larger dimensions. The two seats, separated by a large central console, are described as 'body-hugging' but are more supportively friendly than grippingly unfriendly.

Engine choices number seven – two petrol and five diesel – with five and six speed manual transmissions depending on engine size plus an excellent automatic available as an option.

Trim levels number three – Active, Allure and GT Line – together with a top spec GT version which is uniquely powered by a 2.0litre Blue HDi 180hp engine coupled with an eight-speed automatic transmission.

On the road, behind the neat and tidy flat-topped/bottomed, fully adjustable steering wheel, the 5008 offers an excellent drive with very decent road holding and all-absorbing suspension. Although engines up to 2.0litres and 181 bhp are available, the award-winning 1.2 petrol Pure Tech Engine of the Year, with 131 bhp at its disposal, proved to be a revelation with plenty of unwavering power, smoothly delivered via the six-speed manual transmission.

It is spacious, easy to drive and comfortable

The car has a very generous standard specification

The 5008 is the third SUV to be launched by Peugeot in the past 18 months, following in the treads of the 2008 and 3008

Prices for the 5008 start at £24,495 and include a very generous standard spec with remote central locking, Bluetooth, DAB radio, three Isofix fittings, cruise control, spare wheel, all-round electric windows and rear parking sensors as well as is Apple CarPlay and Android Auto connectivity.

A step up to Allure adds Connect SOS, tinted rear windows, a 180-degree reversing camera and Tom-Tom navigation. Inevitably the price increases, in this case to £26,295.

The GT Line, which starts at £28,195, includes self-levelling headlights, sporty front design, and a smartphone charging plate (a £120 option on Active and Allure) while the GT version adds leather seats and multiway adjustable electric seats with massage function while upping the starting price to £35,695.

The new 5008 is the third SUV to be launched by Peugeot in the past 18 months, following in the tyre treads of the 2008 and the highly successful all-new 3008 which has sold more than 200,000 units globally in just a few months.

The runaway success of the Peugeot 3008 is no guarantee that the larger 5008 will be as successful but there is really no reason why it shouldn't.

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Brand new compact SUV now on Motability scheme

MG ZS joins the Motability scheme

MG Motor UK's brand-new compact-SUV, the MG ZS, is now available to lease on the Motability scheme, meaning you could drive away in the stylish SUV from as little as a £45 advanced payment.

On offer for the advanced payment, and 100 per cent of the weekly allowance, the MG ZS is available to people on the Higher Rate Mobility Component of Disability Living Allowance (HRMC DLA), the Enhanced Rate of the Mobility Component of Personal Independence Payment (ERMC PIP) or the Armed Forces Independence Payment (AFIP) schemes. In addition, the MG ZS can be leased at a similarly competitive rate for people on the War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement (WPMS).

Available on Motability at Excite and Exclusive trim levels, in both manual and automatic transmissions, the MG ZS comes packed with 'extras' as standard. An industry-leading 8" touch sensitive infotainment screen is supported by DAB radio (on the Exclusive and Excite models), while Bluetooth hands-free and remote central locking is available across the range. Cruise control is also included, while air conditioning comes as standard on Excite and Exclusive models, and Satellite Navigation and a rear camera are standard on the Exclusive variant.

Harvey France, spokesperson for MG Motor UK, said: "Over two-thirds of the dealerships in the MG network have a Motability-trained specialist as part of their team.

"They are on hand to provide expert advice to customers and we are actively supporting other dealerships to install a trained member of staff. We strongly believe in Motability, and it is a great initiative that we are proud to be a part of."

The addition of the MG ZS means the whole MG range is now available on the Motability scheme. Customers can also choose from the spacious MG GS SUV, or the stylish Supermini, the MG3, which is the best value car on the scheme.

For more information about the Motability scheme, or to book a test drive, visit: www.mg.co.uk/motability/

Latest Megane R.S. feels at home both on road and track

By Jack Evans

The Megane R.S. has been one of the most crucial hot hatches in the segment for some time now, and here we find ourselves in the latest generation.

With its predecessors regarded as some of the finest-handling hatches of all time, the new Megane R.S. has a lot to live up to, but Renault hopes that thanks to a range of new technologies and chassis enhancements this version will be the best yet. However, there are now more competitors than ever for it to take on, making the Megane R.S.'s job even trickier.

There's quite a lot going on underneath the Megane's muscular styling. We've now got four-wheel steering, a powerful turbocharged bonnet and – enthusiasts rejoice – the choice of either a dual-clutch automatic or six-speed manual gearbox.

Responsive

Renault says that this latest R.S. features more influence from its learning in motorsport than ever before. Engineers from the firm's F1 team even helped those developing the Megane's engine, ensuring that it was as responsive as possible – despite being turbocharged.

The exterior has also been beefed up, as have the chassis and brakes. In all, it's designed to be the most involving Megane R.S. yet. There's the choice of either Sport or Cup chassis too, with the former more road-ready and the latter aimed at those who want to use their Megane on track.

The new Megane R.S. is powered by a 1.8-litre turbocharged petrol engine – the same as the one you'll find in the Alpine A110 sports car. Here, it produces 278bhp and 390Nm, which enables the Megane to hit 60mph in 5.6 seconds before topping out at 155mph.

As we mentioned, two transmissions are available – a dual-clutch automatic or a six-speed manual. However, the biggest change comes elsewhere. The new Megane now features all-wheel steering – a first for the hot-hatch segment. At speeds of up to 37mph, both the front and rear wheels turn in the same direction, affording the car better high-speed stability. At low speed, they move in opposite directions, and this means the car can turn more sharply than with a conventional set-up.

A hot hatch needs to be sharp, nimble and, most of all, fun to drive. In most respects the Megane R.S. ticks these boxes. The 1.8-litre engine feels punchy at low speeds yet has a willingness to be revved out too. It sounds characterful enough as well, though only when switched into all-out 'Race' driving mode – in regular modes it's pretty muted. The handling is sharp, with perhaps a little too much artificial weight added in racier modes, but the four-wheel steering does make the car particularly agile in the bends – and it'll happily begin to rotate on a lifted throttle, but it never becomes scary or difficult to drive.

Megane R.S. is a huge amount of fun to drive – and that's one of the key things you need with any hot hatch

There are some niggles, however – the gearshift paddles are mounted just slightly too high on the steering wheel, while the brake pedal lacks a degree of bite under the first inches of travel.

Despite being based on a rather run-of-the-mill hatchback, the R.S. manages to look impressive in the metal. The arches have been fleshed out at both the front and rear, while small touches such as air vents just behind the front wheels and a large hexagonal exhaust surround help differentiate the R.S. from the regular Megane. Certainly, there were few people we passed while on our southern Spain test route who didn't stop to stare at the Renault – and that's exactly the effect that hot hatches should have.

The R.S. moniker has always been an indication of truly sporty cars, and enthusiasts instantly recognise the level of tuning and mechanical enhancement that it represents – a feature that can't quickly be attained but has to be earned over time.

Those looking for a flamboyant, over-the-top interior may have to look in other directions than the Renault Megane R.S. For the most part, though, it's a pleasant place to be – the sports seats are hugely comfortable with plenty of support and adjustment, while the seating position itself is spot-on. The materials throughout are decent enough, with only a few low-rent plastics on the dashboard and around the infotainment system spoiling the overall effect.

A hot hatch needs to be usable on a daily basis, after all, so it's handy that the Megane R.S. features both decent rear-seat legroom and an impressively large boot. It means that those who plan on using their hot hatch every day – as they should be – won't get caught short in terms of practicality.

The Megane R.S. benefits from quite a lot of standard equipment. Central to the cabin's design is the large 8.7-inch infotainment screen, which houses satellite navigation and media functions. One of the cleverest functions it features is the RS Monitor. This allows drivers to connect a dash cam or smartphone to the system and film their laps on track.

Then, the car's in-board telemetrics can overlay details such as speed and G-reading on to the footage, which can then be uploaded to the internet.

The screen itself looks good, but unfortunately small icons make it a little hard to navigate – and are particularly annoying when you're trying to do something as simple as input a destination into the navigation.

The Megane R.S. is a little bit of a mixed bag. The engine, chassis and ride are all impressive. The 1.8-litre unit is responsive and pulls hard throughout the rev range, while the Sport chassis is just well judged enough for the road.

However, a few niggles such as the infotainment system and oddly placed gearshift paddles do bring things down. That said, the Megane R.S. is still a huge amount of fun to drive – and that's one of the key things you need with any hot hatch.

● Renault Megane R.S. Price: £30,000 (est)

Testing time for Michelin tyres – first report

By John Griffiths

We British are a little obsessed with the weather: probably because we have so much of it and it affects our lives in so many ways.

One of these, of course, is driving: particularly the effect varying conditions have on our grip on the road and therefore our safety.

We may have only a few days of snow and slush a year, but will have witnessed how this can bring the country to a near standstill.

Tyre manufacturers and some safety organisations recommend fitting winter, or snow, tyres as soon as there's a serious chill in the air.

But bearing the mind the cost of buying them, and changing four tyres twice a year, is it really worth it?

The problem is winter tyres are specifically designed for use in temperatures less than seven degrees C: any higher, and in dry conditions, their performance drops off, they wear much more quickly and may result in increased road noise.

The answer may be cross-climate tyres, designed with unique tread patterns and compounds to give you best of both worlds performance for traction in all weathers and at all temperatures.

CrossClimate

I have been trying a set of Michelin CrossClimate tyres on my supermini: the latest CrossClimate + aren't available for my 14-inch wheels.

In independent tests, the CrossClimate scored highly against a range of other brands for traction and braking in snow, good wet weather performance and very short braking distances in dry conditions – qualifying it as a top all-weather tyre,

The difference after fitting the Michelins (my car was previously shod with a popular, mid-range standard brand) was instantly noticeable: particularly the steering which felt more positive and accurate, with less of a tendency towards oversteer on faster corners.

The improvement is equally noticeable in the dry or the wet, an impression borne out by an independent comparison of similar tyres.

Getting to and from my home, which is on a hill, was also trouble-free thanks to the new tyres.

The CrossClimates were also noticeably quieter than the standard tures they replaced, and provided a more supple ride.

This combination of performance characteristics is due to the joint action of three key innovations: an innovative tread rubber compound, a unique tread pattern, and high performance sipes or groves.

The 'V' tread pattern maximizes the clawing effect on the snow throughout the tyre's life, and contributes to the improved life of the tyre.

How well they do, and how my fuel consumption is affected, will be the subject of a later report.

SEAT has a cabinet full of awards

Stylish and practical car maker SEAT has a lot to celebrate: so far this year the company has claimed a cabinet full of awards for its latest models.

It took the prestigious What Car? Car of the Year Awards 2018 by storm, taking an unprecedented four class wins – including 'best small SUV' for the Arona which has only just hit the UK's streets.

The Arona's success was matched by his larger sibling, the Ateca, taking the 'best family SUV for less than £20,000 title. The Leon was named best family car for less than £18,000 while the new Ibiza was named as 'best small car'

The Ateca already looked set to stay at the top of the crossover class by taking the top award in Company Car Today's awards while the Ibiza started the ball rolling this year by scooping the UK Car of the Year title.

The new Ibiza launched last year, is a five-door supermini in a range of trim levels and with a choice of economical petrol or diesel engines ranging from 75 to 150PS, offering a blend of 'hot hatch' performance from the likes of the 1.5 TFSI Evo to over 74mpg from the 1.6 diesel.

One of its engines, a 1.0 litre petrol turbo, is also an option in the large Leon family hatchback – a focussed drivers' car with a well-crafted interior. This gem of an engine turns out an impressive 115Ps of power, enough to take the Leon to 62mph in under ten seconds or average more than 64mpg.

The wide range of options goes up to the sporty 180PS FR and the ultimate sporty SEATs, the Leon Cupra 300 range and the mighty 310PS Cupra R.

For those who need a practical, go-anywhere car, the Leon X-Perience is a serious load carrier (with cargo space of between 587 and 1,470 litres, depending on whether the rear seats are up or folded flat) with the added benefit of greater ground clearance an a four wheel drive system.

The Leon X-Perience is a serious load carrier

UK Car of the Year title went to the Ibiza

SEAT's award-winning Arona, including What Car? 2018 best small SUV

The Ateca, launched only last year, was praised by the What Car? Panel of experts as "staggering value for money" and rewarded for its impressive equipment features right from entry-level and the "punchy" performance of its 1.0 TSI Ecomotive 115 PS engine, adding a "fun" dimension to the car's all round excellent functionality.

The What Car? judges referenced the fact that the Arona "is more affordable than most rivals" thanks to "great finance deals" and praised the "comfortable and well-equipped interior." The impressive range of personalisation options – including no-cost combinations of contrasting roof and bodywork colour – were "the cherry on top".

SEAT's range starts with the Mii, a 1.0 litre petrol city car with 60 or 75Ps power options. Not only is it one of Britain's most affordable cars to buy, it is also one of the cheapest to insure and is credited with average fuel consumption of more than 64mpg.

At the other end of the size scale is the family-orientated Alhambra, a luxurious seven-seater with a range of petrol and diesel engine options.

The rear pair of seats fold flat into the boot floor, while the centre three seats individually slide backwards and forwards or fold down to give maximum flexibility whether you're carrying seven people or a van-sized load of cargo – up to 2,297 litres in fact.

As you'd expect of a family car, the Alhambra comes with seven airbags and the latest driver assistance and safety technology, plus features such as up to the minute infotainment and connectivity systems and climate control air conditioning.

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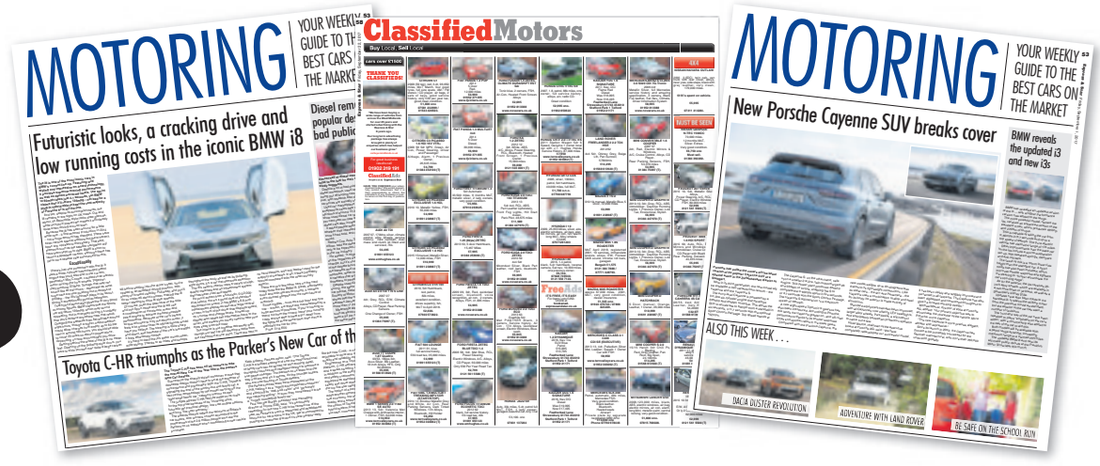

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Deaths

BATTERSBY

David

(Reginald)

Sadly passed away on January 31, 2018, aged 84 years.

Dearly missed by all his Family and Friends.

A Thanksgiving Service for his life will take place at St Luke's Church, Cannock at 12.30pm on Thursday, March 1, 2018.

No flowers, by request, please.

Donations, if so desired, can be made for The British Heart Foundation and Cancer Research UK.

All inquiries c/o

A.J. Sellman
Family Funeral Directors
79 Church Street, Cannock, WS11 1DH
01543 502322

Deaths

BILL

Joyce Doreen

Passed away peacefully on February 9, 2018, aged 87 years.

Joyce was much loved and will be missed dearly by all of her Family and Friends.

The Funeral Service will take place on Monday, March 5, 2018, at Stafford Crematorium at 11.30am, followed by a Memorial Service at Kingdom Hall, Hednesford.

Family flowers only please.

Donations, if so desired for Worldwide Work of Jehovah's Witnesses.

All inquiries c/o

A.J. Sellman
Family Funeral Directors
79 Church Street, Cannock, WS11 1DH
01543 502322

CARTWRIGHT

Gerald

Of Cannock.

Passed away on February 8, aged 87 years.

Will be sadly missed by all Family and Friends.

Funeral Service will take place at Cannock Salvation Army on Monday, March 5, at 1.45pm, followed by Cremation at Stafford Crematorium

Family flowers only please.

Donations if desired to Cannock Salvation Army Over 60's Club c/o

Stacey's
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30 Greenheath Road
Hednesford, WS12 4AR
01543 422524

GOODHEAD

Lez

Of Heath Hayes, passed away in hospital on February 10, 2018, aged 74 years.

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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENT

CUSTOMER INFORMATION

Please note that the deadline for our weekly Cannock Chronicle is 4pm every Friday, for the following weeks edition.

This is subject to change Bank Holidays.

Eg (4pm Thursday)

Cannock Reception will be closing at 4.30pm on a Friday.

LAIRD

Roy

Passed away on February 6.

Funeral to be held at Fradley Crematorium, Tuesday, February 27, 3.30pm.

MASSEY

Philip Leslie

Passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his loving Family, on Friday February 9, 2018.

Cherished Partner of Jean and Dad to Johann, Neil and James.

Sadly missed by all his Friends and Family.

Funeral service at Stafford Crematorium on Wednesday February 28 at 3.00pm.

Followed by the Wake at Hednesford Ex- Servicemans Club, which everyone is welcome.

No flowers at Philips request, donations gladly received to put to chosen charity.

MASSEY

Philip

My love as you lay in my arms
I knew you couldn't stay.
I had to say good-bye as I felt
you slipping away.
It broke my heart but at last
you found peace and free
from pain.
You took my heart with you
and left me yours to treasure.
Life will never be the same,
you are one in a million.
I will love and miss you
always until we become one
again.
Rest now my love.
Your devoted and devastated
Wife Jean.

X

DAD

Dad, God saw you getting weary and knew you couldn't stay,
So He wrapped His arms around you and said come with me.
We all love and miss you, until we meet again.
Johann, Trev, Neil, Louise, James and all the Grandchildren.

X X X

PORTEOUS

Kath

Of View Street, Hednesford.

Passed away peacefully on February 5, aged 95 years.

She will be sadly missed by all Family and Friends.

Funeral Service will take place at Stafford Crematorium on Wednesday, February 28, at 12.30pm.

Family flowers only please.

Donations if desired to The Midland Air Ambulance c/o

Stacey's
Family Funeral Directors
30 Greenheath Road
Hednesford, WS12 4AR
01543 422524

RASTALL

Olive Ruth Francis

(Ruth)

Wife of Bernard Edwin Rastall.

Passed away peacefully on Wednesday, February 7, 2018, aged 93 years.

Much loved Mother to Keith and Lorna and devoted Grandmother.

The Funeral Service will take place on Friday, March 2, 2018 at St. Luke's Church, Cannock at 12.45pm, followed by a Committal Service at Stafford Crematorium.

Family flowers only please.

Donations, if so desired for Multiple Sclerosis and RAFA.

All inquiries c/o

A.J. Sellman
Family Funeral Directors
79 Church Street, Cannock, WS11 1DH
01543 502322

SAUNDERS

Muriel

Sadly passed away Friday, February 9, 2018, aged 98 years.

Muriel was much loved and will be dearly missed by all of her Family and Friends.

The Funeral Service will be held on Thursday, March 1, 2018, 2.30pm at Bushbury Crematorium East Chapel.

Family flowers only please.

Donations, if so desired for The British Heart Foundation.

All inquiries c/o

A J Sellman
Family Funeral Directors
67 Station Street,
Cheslyn Hay WS6 7EG
01922 410612

WESTWOOD

Roy

Passed away on January 5, 2018 aged 83 years.

The Funeral Service has already taken place.

Originally from Rawnsley, the loving Brother of Colin and Angela, Brother-in-Law to Keith and Audrey, Uncle to Julie, Calvin and Lee, Great Uncle to Matthew, Thomas and Jade.

Roy will be sadly missed by us All.

God bless.

Acknowledgements

POWELL

Ivor and Cyril

Pearl would like to thank all Family, Friends and Neighbours for attending the Funerals of Ivor and Cyril.

She would also like to thank the Rev. Joyce Stewardson for a lovely Service and George Stacey Funeral Directors.

Also, The Nest for the wonderful food and Longford Social Club.

Donations received will be given to The Birmingham Dogs Home and The Cannock Chemotherapy Unit.

In Memoriam

DANDO

Rob

One Year Today.

Still loved and missed every day.

Mom, Dad and Family.

X

JONES

Lily Elizabeth

nee Stanley

20th February, 2017

A wonderful Mother, Nan and Great Nan.

One year has passed since that sad day,when one we loved was called away.

God took her home it was His will,but in our hearts she liveth still.

Loved and missed every day. With love always Lynn, Bob, Kelly, Simon, Gareth, Christine, Jak, Rebecca, Chloe, Lottie and Holly.

XXX

1 Family

Elderly & Disabled

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £799. Now available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

2 Leisure Time

Bikes

JACKSON-HATELEY CYCLES
www.jacksonhateleycycles.co.uk
MASSIVE SALE NOW ON
Book your cycle now for Easter at sale price
Get your fantastic bargain now
All cycles built and guaranteed with a 24 hour repair service
HATELEY'S
Simply the best
Ring Dave on 01902 782344
458 Stafford Road, Oxley, Wolverhampton

Car Boot Sales

CHILDREN'S EQUIPMENT Nearly new sale at Hayes Green Community Centre on 21st Feb from 10-2. Call to book a table. 01543 571818

Caravans Wanted

All Caravans Wanted
Any Age or Condition
*CASH * WAITING*
Immediate collection
Call Bill on 07825 325 913

Sports & Leisure

FreeAds
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items upto £250.
Online at
bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

holidays

Caravan Holidays

SEA SIDE SOMERSET HOLIDAY caravans to let, all overlook the sea. Half price OAP offer. 01984631781 www.helwellbay.com

TOWYN N.WALES, Caravans to let, small site, good rates, all facilities 01745 334897 or 07766 306230.

Devon

PAIGNTON
The Kingswinford
February - March offers
2 nights, 2 people B&B
ONLY £99
Room only available
FAMILY ROOMS AVAILABLE
CHILD DISCOUNTS
All rooms en suite
100 yards to beach and pier
Contractors Welcome
01803 558358
www.kingswinfordhotel.com

Self Catering Holidays

BURNHAM-ON-SEA
Self Catering Holiday Apartments
Disabled Facilities
Pet Friendly
01278 794111
www.GoSomerset.co.uk

SELF-CATERING LODGE holidays on Award Winning Rural Holiday Park near Staffordshire /Shropshire Border. Please visit www.oaklandholidaypark.co.uk or call us on 01902 851302.

Travel Abroad

READERS ARE REMINDED to check with any Advertisers that their holiday costs are fully covered by a recognised bonding or insurance scheme.

mind, body & soul

Massage

THE TANNING ROOMS
Full body massage 30 mins £22,
40 mins £27, 1 hour £37
SHOWER FACILITIES
Call: 01902 782960

3 Home & Services

Antiques

Louis Taylor
Fine Art Auctioneers & Valuers
Antique valuations first Wednesday of every month, 10am - 2pm
Ancient High House Museum, Stafford, ST16 2JA
01782 638100

ANTIQUES WANTED
Furniture, Clocks, China, Medals, Coins, Old wind-up Wrist and Pocket Watches Paintings, Gold/Silver/Costume Jewellery
CHASE ANTIQUES
(Over 40 Years Trading)
01543 572367 07831 818024

Furniture

katharine house hospice, enhancing life and living
Reg charity number: 1011712
Furniture not sold, why not donate it?
We can turn your quality used furniture into 1st class care for patients at Katharine House
Call us now on 01543 466885
for details or to arrange a FREE collection

In Your Garden

HOME DOCTOR TREES, GARDENING & LANDSCAPING
Trees, Fencing, Gravelling, Turfing, Slabbing, Brick Walls, Block Paving & Power Washing
Guaranteed Registered Business.
CRB police checked
01902 212905
07873 990980

SLABS 450mm x 450mm RIVEN FACED, only £1.87 inc. VAT. Hanton Building Supplies: 01543 276006.

Items For Sale

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
That the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

ASH RECLAMATION new and used building materials, upvc doors and windows 01543 453222.

CORRUGATED GALVANISED Sheets. New, £8 can deliver. Also box profile and PVC/polycarb. David Broxton on 07834 489558.

✔ CASH PAID ✔
£300+ PER OUNCE
FOR 9 CARAT GOLD.
ANY AMOUNT COLLECTED!
Lady Buyer
gold coins, pre - 47 silver coins, watches, costume jewellery, porcelain, any oriental items, old brass items, any silver items, War medals military etc.
HOUSE CLEARANCES!
✔ Call: 01922 495066 or 07971 783206 ✔

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

Items Wanted

ALEX BUYS-Mobility scooters/electric wheelchairs, recliner armchairs. Clean/working. 078 078 078 05.

A BEST CASH PRICE PAID
for antiques, vintage furniture, leather-winged arm chairs & chesterfield setees.
01902 454144 or 0121 5263375

CASH PAID NOW!
WANTED TOOLS
Hand Tools, Anything considered
01543 452 491
07539 340307

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

Loans

READERS ARE REMINDED that they may require professional advice before entering into obligations.

t.v. / home entertainment

Service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST Any TV Repairs. Digital aerials, sky, CCTV cameras. TV wall mounts and TV set ups. 07850 330251.

CLASSIFIEDS FOR YOU!

"TV Link are really pleased with their response from their Classified Campaign"

Bill - TV Link

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

specialists at your service

Aerials

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
AERIALS FITTED FROM £79.99
01902 858191 • 01384 429166
01543 439095 • 01922 716029

CLASSIFIEDS FOR YOU!

"I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract"

Steve - AA Digital Aerials

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

A AERIAL AND SKY SPECIALIST Digital aerials, CCTV cameras, TV wall mount fitted. 07850 330251.

Alarms/Security

PREMIER ALARMS
Supplied and Fitted £249
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

Building Supplies

RECLAIMED BRICKS, Tiles, Slates, Oakbeams, Flooring, York Stone. Cawarden 01889 574066. sales@cawardenreclaim.co.uk

Carpet Fitters

A CARPETS & VINYLS supplied or just fitted, quality samples brought to your home, no job too small, free quotes call Mark 01543 820598 / 07941 619694.

Double Glazing Repairs

S.P.S replace misted glass, locks, hinges, windows, doors, guaranteed. OAP discount. 07983 704889

Driveways & Patios

P.W DRIVEWAYS
The Block Paving Specialists.
Patios, Driveways, Pathways etc.
SPECIAL OFFER £50 PSM (JANUARY ONLY)
Free Quotes & Advice
0800 747 1435

Fencing

CLASSIFIEDS FOR YOU!

"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representatives and would recommend them to anyone! They have done a very professional job with my website so I get online enquiries as well now."
Michael- Portway Fencing

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards £695
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

BUSHBURY FENCING AND GATES
SUPPLY AND FITTING SPECIALISTS
FREE QUOTES
01902 827000

C B SHEDS & FENCING
We supply & fit. Free quotes.
Call: 01922 720270
We also supply sleepers and decking

Gardening Services

GARDEN KINGS All Garden work and maintenance, Fencing, Tree cutting, Turfing and much more. Call: Steve for free quote. 07774449900 / 01902 238653.

Landywood Tree & Landscaping Services
All garden work, tree felling/topping, pruning, hedges trimmed, turf, patios, fencing, block-paving etc.
www.landywoodlandscaping.co.uk
01922 898 710 / 07973 177 976

OAKTREE TREE SERVICES
Covers all aspects of tree surgery, grass cutting and hedges. Garden clearances, turfing and fencing
07427 060382

Gas Fitting

READERS ARE ADVISED
To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.
It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

House Clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. 07852 172641 / 07710 360327 / 01902 534021

ALL ROUND CLEARANCE
Professional family run business
House clearances full or part, also garages, sheds etc.
Telephone Kev
07794 912844

Painters/ Decorators

DECORACE Painter & Decorator. Quality work at reasonable prices. OAP discounts. Free quotes: 01902 635258 07876 135302.

LADY PAINTER & DECORATOR City and guild qualified. local, reliable, affordable. 07916 399490.

Plans Prepared

ADAM DESIGN, Building Plans. Drawn and submitted to council. Tel: 01902 620200 / 07841 654037. Email: adamdesign@sky.com

Plastering

MINT PLASTERING
For the very best in plastering and rendering, full rooms inc materials from 110. Halls, stairs and landings from 200
30 years experience.
Free quotes. All work guaranteed
01543 327130 / 07519 694516

M&S PLASTERING & BUILDING SERVICES
Home/Garden Improvements.
Over 30 Years Experience
Mark or Sara: 07741 770897

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TAD PLUMBING & HEATING
For all your plumbing needs.
30 years experience
24 HOUR CALL OUT, NO FEE!
Call Trevor on 07791 319397
www.tadplumbingandheatingwolverhampton.co.uk

PLUMBING WORK UNDERTAKEN No job too small or large. Call Will for a free quote on: 07521 411108.

Property Maintenance

BLAYDON PROPERTY SERVICES
No Job Too Small
Free Quotes
GUTTERS & FASCIAS
GUTTER CLEANING, GARDEN WORK
ELECTRICS / PLASTERING ETC
T: 01902 655578 | M: 07954 607991

Removals

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

KC REMOVALS We beat any quote, full or part loads, all areas. Anything considered. Call on 07867 862227.

KT HOUSE REMOVALS
12 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS. LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

Roofing

CLIFF NICHOLLS
Roofing & Scaffolding
Rubber Roofing
37 years experience
FREEPHONE (0800) 220 - 729

AA ROOF DOCTOR
FLAT ROOF SPECIALIST
ALL ROOFING WORK UNDERTAKEN
Tile replacement/Chimney pointing Fascias & Guttering
01902 562393

MG ROOFING
Flat Roofing, Tiling, Roof Repairs, Fascias and Gutters.
Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.
www.mgroofingwestmidlands.co.uk

Tree Services

BUDGET TREE SURGERY Tall or small. Conifers & hedge trimming. Shrubs pruned, tidy ups & make overs 01543324608/ 07936882552

4 Pets & Animals

Pets Corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

WEDNESBURY SANCTUARY needs homes for 2 rescued young cats Roxanne & Alfie, neutered & vaccinated 0121 502 5027.

Equestrian Corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information.

Guns & Dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

5 Business & Farming

Business Opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering into any obligations.

Business Services

BANTOCK&FINCH ACCOUNTANTS Bookkeeping and VAT returns. Bantockandfinch@gmail.com 07415 448 745

6 Property

Accommodation To Let

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

NOTICE TO READERS
It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

STUDIO FLAT All amenities, low deposit, vacant now. Near Sandwell Hospital. 07828 504083.

Overseas Property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

SELL YOUR UNWANTED ITEMS FOR ONLY £9.99
** Cheaper than ebay!

FOR 6 NIGHTS IN PRINT AND ONLINE IN YOUR LOCAL EXPRESS & STAR.
✔ No hidden costs
✔ Buyer collects
✔ No postage or returns
✔ Local sellers to local people
✔ It's that simple!!
Call us on 01902 317878
or book online at bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk
Private advertisers only. No pets, livestock, property or personals
**Ebay price checked 2/1/18
ClassifiedAds

Properties Wanted

WE PAY 100% of purchase price EVERY TIME!
FAST 4 Your House CASH

BLACK COUNTRY HOMES
You agree the price, we buy the house...
• NO AGENTS FEES • COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
• FREE SOLICITORS • ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION

0800 999 999 6
01384 500 500 30 yrs
www.black-countryhomes.co.uk * subject to terms

CASH NOW Wolverhampton properties **FOR YOUR HOUSE**
UP TO **£25,000** CASH ADVANCE NOW (in 24hrs)
• Free Solicitors • No Fees • Any House • Any Condition
We can buy your house in 2 days
0800 389 6788 01902 628047 Lines open 24 hours a day 7 days a week Terms applicable

WE BUY ANY HOUSE CASH
CALL US FREE 24 Hours/ 7days
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All Your Costs Paid & No Selling Fees
We Buy Any Area & Any Condition
STOP Repossession/Eviction
Release Your Equity Today
GET UP TO **£20,000** CASH ADVANCE
5 STAR REVIEWS
www.UKFASTSALE.co.uk
FREE Solicitors, FREE Survey, FREE Home Removals, FREE EPC

Yes! HOMEBUYERS THE EASY WAY TO SELL YOUR HOUSE
We Buy Houses For Cash
Free Valuation? Yes! No Fees? Yes! Any Location? Yes!
Fast Sale? Yes! Any House? Yes! Any Condition? Yes!
Get your FREE, instant cash offer today!
The Property Ombudsman
Call 01543 547 807 or text "Cash" to 66777 yeshomebuyers.com

BUY LOCAL SELL LOCAL
01902 317878

ClassifiedAds

We buy houses
Sell your house fast
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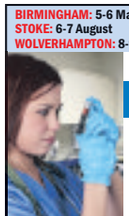
- behind on payments
- job relocation
- unwanted inheritance
What more - we buy in any condition
No estate agent fees
We pay all your legal fees
ACT NOW!
Contact us on : 07796 801219 / 07988 882090

Courses

BIRMINGHAM: 5-6 May and 5-6 September
STOKE: 6-7 August TELFORD: 8-9 August
WOLVERHAMPTON: 8-9 March & 25-26 July
Accredited ocn



Learn how to take blood
TRAIN AS A PHLEBOTOMIST
Introduction to Phlebotomy
TWO DAY COURSE - NATIONALLY RECOGNISED
- Allied Healthcare Career Path
- Accredited (advanced) qualification
- No previous experience required
For more info. or to book online: www.geopace.com
High demand in: Hospitals - GP Surgeries - Clinics - Private Sector - MOD - Research

Nursing & Carers

SUPPORT WORKERS
required, full/part time working within a professional but relaxed environment based in **Rugeley**
Supporting people with autism to lead fulfilling and purpose full lives. 36 days annual leave, competitive sleeping-in allowance, pension scheme provided.
Full training given including care certificate leading to Diploma Level 2 & 3.
Tel 01889 801837
or email:
talbotstreet20@outlook.com
for further information & application form.

Part Time - General

NEWS DELIVERERS
required in the Pinfold Lane area of Cheslyn Hay.
Please contact
Customer Services on 0800 174064

Full Time General

THE APPRENTICESHIP SHOW
THE JOB BOX
Apprenticeships are open to ALL ages
Come and find out how they could work for you
Thursday 8 March 2018
The International Centre, Telford
12noon - 7.30pm Last entry 7pm

www.telfordjobbox.co.uk/tas18
Showcasing 100's of apprenticeships opportunities across Telford and Wrekin, Shropshire, The West Midlands and beyond.
ARMY BE THE BEST · University of Wolverhampton · STAR · Shropshire Council · Telford & Wrekin COUNCIL

Pentalver
HGV CLASS 1 DRIVERS
(DAYS & NIGHTS)
Over the last 30 years Pentalver has become a leading provider of container-related services in the UK. We have enjoyed continued growth in a very competitive industry and are seeking to expand our driver workforce as a result of this. We are looking for experienced Class 1 Drivers, however will consider newly qualified Drivers and Drivers looking to return to the industry. Through 2018 we are replacing all of our current fleet with new high spec MAN TGX vehicles which is just one of the many benefits of joining the team at Pentalver. All of our drivers receive 7 hrs of CPC training annually together with the opportunity to train to be a qualified ADR Driver. If you would like to work for a leading national Company that offers great benefits please contact us at:
Pentalver Way, Cannock, Staffordshire, WS11 8XY
Telephone: 0333 150 8352
Email: recruitment@pentalver.co.uk
driver cpc · SQA

UNITECH Blaymires
RAF-857 - POSITION OF TELESALES CANDIDATE
Unitech Blaymires Ltd are leading manufacturers of Metal Pressings, Laser Cutting, Fabrications and Coil Processing to a wide range of customers, manufacturing to high quality standards. Based in Lye, Stourbridge, as part of a restructure of the business, we have a fantastic new opportunity to recruit for a Telesales Candidate to complement our existing team.

Role Overview:
Reporting to the Operations Director, your role will be to arrange appointments for the company director. Within this role, you will be required to work on multiple projects at any one time. This will require someone whose attention to detail and ability to multi task are unquestionable, as this will be pivotal part in determining project-specific success and divisional growth.

Other duties involved are outlined below:

Main duties will include:
- Telephoning potential clients from a variety of databases.
- Maintaining sales information.
- Any other duties commensurate with the development of sales.
- Assist with general sales activities.

Skills & Experience Required:
- Must possess previous experience of working in a similar position.
- Organisational and IT skills are a prerequisite of this role along with the ability to manage and prioritise your workload using their own initiative.

What we offer in return:
- Full time, permanent contract. Hours may be negotiable
- Competitive Salary dependant on experience.
- 28 days holiday (inclusive of annual, bank/public days).
- Access to a contributory company pension scheme, employer contribution of 3%.

Application Process:
Should you feel that you have the skills and experience that we are looking for please submit your CV and written application by email to **les.parkes@unitechblaymires.com** quoting reference: **RAF-857**.

To find out more about our Company please visit our company website **www.unitechblaymires.com**. We are an equal opportunity employer.

UNITECH ENGINEERING
Due to continuing expansion, Unitech Engineering Limited are currently recruiting for the following positions on an employed and self-employed basis:

DAY SHIFT - Monday - Thursday (07:15 to 16:00); Friday (07:15 to 14.30)
TIG Welders
Welder/Fitters
Bead Blast Operator
Saw Operators
Press Brake Operator/Setters
Electrical Panel Builders
Polisher/Metal Finishers

NIGHT SHIFT - Monday - Thursday - (16:00 to 02.30)
TIG Welders
Welder/Fitters

SITE ENGINEERS
Site Fitters
Welder/Fitters

For permanent positions we offer:
- Full time, permanent contract. 40 hours per week plus generous overtime at time and a third and time and a half;
- Full Training and Support Programme.
- 28 days holiday (inclusive of annual, bank/public days) increasing with service.
- Access to a contributory company pension scheme, employer contribution of 3%.

Application Process:
Should you feel that you have the skills and experience that we are looking for or would like to know more about these roles please give us a call on **01543 675800**. Alternatively if you would like to submit your CV and written application by email outlining the position of interest and what you feel you can offer us. All applications should be emailed to: **reception@unitech.uk.com**

We are an equal opportunity employer.

8 Motoring

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

FIESTA 1.25 ZETEC
2007,5dr, 55k, silver, electric windows and mirrors, MoT Aug, Alloys, CD, Service history.
£1,750.
07930 755566.

Cars Over £1500

BARGAIN
BMW 530D
54 reg,
140,000 miles,
good condition,
8 months MoT.
£2,150 or very near offer.
07836 568903.

PEUGEOT BIPPER HDI75
Jan 2014, 47,500 Miles abs, electric windows, air bag, air con, FSH, MoT 1/9, central locking, diesel, Stereo, CD. HP free. Major Service June 17
£3,900 ono
07545290655

ECONOMICAL
HONDA CIVIC
56 regn, 12 months MoT, FSH, Red, Petrol.
Good Condition.
£2,000
01543 279795.

TOYOTA RAV 4 XT3
2005, 3 door, 107,000 miles, gold, abs, electric windows, electric mirrors, air con, fsh, MoT, superb condition.
£2,995.
01902 744023.

LOW MILEAGE
VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6
SRI, Grey, January 2010, 4dr,11 mths MoT, 11, 900 mls only. New Shape.Fully loaded, Showroom condition.
Sale due to bereavement.
£4,495 ono
07950 182891

Cars Under £1500

BARGAIN
NISSAN MICRA 1.2
53 reg.,
genuine 77,000 miles,
MoT'd.
£850
07864 842076.

Commercial Vehicles

MUST BE SEEN
VAUXHALL COMBO 1300cc
2012,
12 months MoT,
no advisories,
118,000 miles,
very good condition.
£3,300
01889 570265 / 07975 672997.

Scrap Vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

MCB
TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts available at all times
MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

Vehicles Wanted

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

CARS WANTED
DEAD OR ALIVE!
Runners/ Non Runners, MOT Failures.
Can Collect. Cash Waiting!
Scrap Cars, Motoring Memorabilia and Garage Tools Wanted!
Call 07790 032224
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9 Local Information

Public Notices

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

European Textile Recycling Ltd trading as ETR Logistics Ltd of 5 Hollies Business Park, Hollies Park Road, Cannock, Staffordshire, WS11 1DW is applying for a licence to use Storage Site, Hollies Park Road, Cannock, WS11 1DB as an operating centre for 10 goods vehicles and 10 trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

Dated: 23 February 2018

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STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 (AS AMENDED)
ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

**DIVERSION OF VEHICULAR TRAFFIC
A34 WALSALL ROAD, CANNOCK**

NOTICE is hereby given that the Staffordshire County Council intend not less than seven days from the date of this Notice to make an Order the effect of which will be to prohibit any vehicle from proceeding in that length of A34 Walsall Road, Cannock from the A5 J A34/A460 roundabout to back of Bridge Court unless the vehicle is being used in connection with the works; or is being used for police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes. Pedestrian access will be maintained.

An alternative route for traffic is available via A5 J A34/A460 Roundabout, A460 Eastern Way, A5190 Lichfield Road, A4601 Hednesford Road, A4601 Church Street, A34 From Church Street Rbt To Walsall Road, A34 Mill Street, A34 Walsall Road and vice versa. For more information, visit: https://roadworks.org?tm=104315490.

The order will come into operation from 20:00 hours on 9 March 2018 and the said works will commence on or as near as practicable to that date. It is anticipated that the works will be completed by 06:00 hours on 10 March 2018.

The Order will remain in force for a period of 18 months, or until the chevron and chord marking replacement works undertaken by Doocey Traffic Management, which it is proposed to carry out on or near the road have been completed, whichever is the earlier.

**John Tradewell, Director for Strategy, Governance & Change
No. 2 Staffordshire Place, Tipping Street, Stafford. ST16 2DH**

Ref: 4096610; Enquiries: Doocey Traffic Management; Tel: 0330 9000 365 www.staffordshire.gov.uk/trafficregulationorders http://roadworks.org

Date: 22 February 2018

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES

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Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk

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highways england

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14(1)(a) THE A5 TRUNK ROAD (BROWNHILLS TO LICHFIELD) (TEMPORARY RESTRICTION AND PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2018

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Highways England Company Limited (Company No. 9346363) has made an Order on the A5 Trunk Road, between Brownhills and Lichfield, in the Metropolitan Borough of Walsall and the county of Staffordshire, to allow road widening, footway, road marking, signing and drainage works and re profiling of verges and embankments to be carried out.

The effect of the Order will be to –

(1) impose a 30 miles per hour speed restriction on
  a) the eastbound carriageway of the A5 from the centrepoint of its junction with the A5195 at Chasetown, to its roundabout junction with Hall Lane and Walsall Road known as Muckley Corner Roundabout at Lichfield; and
  b) the westbound carriageway of the A5 from Muckley Corner Roundabout, to the centrepoint of its junction with the A5195;
(2) close, at different times –
  a) the lengths of the A5 described in (1) above;
  b) the eastbound and westbound carriageways of the A5 between the roundabout junction with Hanney Hay Road and Barracks Lane at Brownhills, and the dumbbell roundabout junction with the A5127, the A5148 and the slip road leading from the M6 Toll, at Lichfield;
(3) close any layby adjacent to the lengths of the A5 described in (1)a) and b) and (2)b) above;
(4) prohibit any vehicle from entering or leaving the length of the A5 described in (1)a) and b) and (2)b) above, at its junction with any side road; and
(5) prohibit any vehicle from entering or proceeding through any gap in the central reservation of the lengths of the A5 described in (1)a) and b) and (2)b) above.

The work is expected to start on Thursday 1 March 2018 and continue for approximately three months. The speed restriction and layby closures will be in operation from 00:01 hours on 1 March 2018 hours and will continue for 24 hours per day for the duration of the works. The closures will be in operation overnight between 19:00 hours and 06:00 hours. The Order will come into force on 26 February 2018.

Vehicles being used by police, fire and rescue authority or ambulance purposes will be exempt from the speed restriction, closures and prohibition. Vehicles being used for special forces purposes will be exempt from the speed restriction and vehicles being used in connection with the works or for winter maintenance purposes will be exempt from the closures and prohibition

Diversion routes via the A5195, the A5190 the A461 and vice versa and via the A5195, the A461, Limburg Avenue, Sainte Foy Avenue, Friary Road, the A51, the A5192, the A38 and vice versa will be signed.

Access to properties will be maintained at all times.

For more information, please contact Purnima Kaul on 0300 470 3140.

Karen Eustace, an Officer in Highways England Company Limited.

Highways England Company Limited (Company No. 9346363) registered office: Bridge House, Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, GU1 4LZ. A Company registered in England and Wales.

10 Personals

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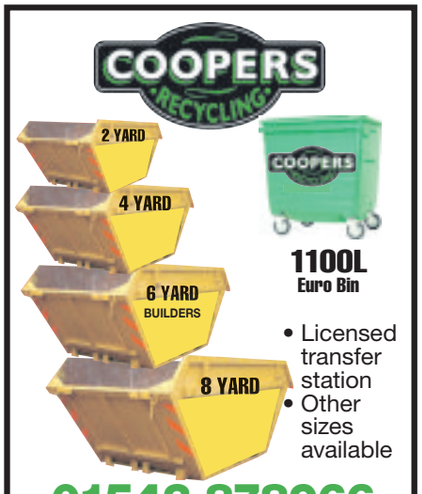

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Enjoy knockout night with boxer McGuigan

MORE than 30 years on from one of boxing's most memorable nights, fighting legend Barry McGuigan will entertain his fans again – in Birmingham.

The Evening With . . . event takes place on March 23 at the Irish Centre in Digbeth. It was a summer evening in 1985, at the Loftus Road football ground in London, that 'The Clones Cyclone' deposed the mighty Eusebio Pedroza to win the WBA world featherweight title.

It was the culmination of a remarkable journey for the charismatic young man from County Monaghan in Ireland. His sporting triumph is a story which brought the divided communities in the north of Ireland together. Today, McGuigan writes and commentates on the sport, runs the successful Cyclone Promotions Company and manages some of the world's best boxers.

Tickets for the event, which will also include a photo opportunity, are £25 and available from either behind the bar at the Irish Centre in Digbeth or online at www.shamrockevents.co.uk

Ben goes for boxing gold on Gold Coast

BLACK County boxing hope Ben Whittaker is off to the Commonwealth Games in Australia – and warned his rivals: "I'm going for gold on the Gold Coast."

The Darlaston fighter has been selected to represent England at the games which start Down Under in April and will fight in the 75kg category.

The 20-year-old said he couldn't wait to get out there and don the England vest. "We're due to fly out in mid-march for a training camp and to get acclimatised ahead of the games," he said. "I'm going for gold on the Gold Coast. I'm not looking for anything else other than a gold medal.

"I'm going there to win and let all the others worry about me – I know that if I box how I know I can then I'll be wearing a gold medal round my neck at the end," said Whittaker, who boxes out of Firewalker Boxing Club, in Wolverhampton.

Whittaker has also set his sights on the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo before turning professional.

FA investment offers grants to new teams

A £1.5 million FA investment will give aspiring grassroots footballers from two under-represented groups a greater chance of participation.

The Grow the Game programme, delivered by the Football Foundation and launched in 2010, offers grants to grassroots clubs that wish to create new teams. This year, applications are being encouraged from clubs that want to start female or disability teams.

Grow the Game grants help to reduce the costs associated with setting up new teams, with £1,500 available for each team a club creates. Funding can help pay for FA coaching courses, league affiliation costs, referees' fees, first aid kits and strips. Applications close on March 29. For details, clubs should contact their own County FA or visit the Football Foundation website.

Grow the Game is inclusive of players from different genders, ethnic backgrounds, faiths, ages, sexual orientations and those with disabilities. Applications that originate from, or provide for, under-represented communities are being encouraged.

James Lane, centre, of sponsors Homeserve Furniture Repairs Ltd, with, from left, club captain Jonathan Wright, chairman Mo Javaid, Naqaash Tahir and first XI skipper Ravi Nagra

Welcome to Old Hill – new signing Naqaash Tahir is a proven wicket-taker

Old Hill bid to make the long climb back

OLD HILL Cricket Club chairman Mo Javaid is determined to get the club on the front foot this summer

SPORT FEATURE

By Nick Elwell

The Haden Hill outfit have found themselves in a spin in recent years with back-to-back relegations meaning they will start this season in the bottom tier of the Birmingham League.

To cricket players and followers of a certain vintage that fact is difficult to comprehend. Old Hill are steeped in history and were one of the big-hitters on the club cricket scene.

During their halcyon days in the late 80s and early 90s they appeared in five National Knockout finals at Lord's and were triumphant on four occasions.

Troubled

They had a following that was the envy of clubs up and down the country with ex-Test cricketers such as Ron Headley (West Indies), Mushtaq Mohammed (Pakistan) and Greg Matthews (Australia) plying their trade while a young Dean Headley would go on to represent England.

But times have not been so kind since the club dropped out of the Birmingham League top flight in 2006 and last season's troubled campaign ended with them taking another hit.

But what's gone is gone as far as Javaid is concerned and he is only looking to the future.

His passion for the place is obvious as he talks about the good times and the bad.

"I was voted in as chairman in July last year so this will be my first full season in that role," said Javaid.

"But this is my 33rd season at the club. I have seen all the good times, everything

"The numbers have declined but the better standard of cricket you play you will get people back."

that was going Old Hill won it. I have played here and watched games here when there has been five or six hundred people watching.

"Obviously the numbers have declined but the better standard of cricket you play you will get people back.

"We have got a fantastic following still. I am probably biased but as far as I am concerned it's the best in the league.

"Even now you will get 100, 200 people following. We need to give them something to shout about now."

After spending three decades at Old Hill Javaid is more qualified than most to comment and while he is upbeat and positive about the future, sometimes actions speak louder than words, and the club's first piece of winter recruitment speaks volumes.

Old Hill have made a statement of intent for the season ahead by signing former Warwickshire seamer Naqaash Tahir.

Tahir, a proven wicket-taker, posed plenty of problems for batsmen during his spells with Smethwick and Moseley.

He should prove quite a handful in division three and Javaid is delighted to have him on board and to spearhead what he hopes will be a turnaround in fortunes.

"Over the last few years things have gone backwards and unfortunately last year was the big one when we suffered relegation to division three," said Javaid.

"There were lots of reasons for that and it didn't help that we had four or five first team players injured for a long time throughout the season and then obviously the situation we had with the disciplinary hearing and being docked points after the Fordhouses game. That knocked us for six really.

"But we have said as a club that's happened and it's gone now. We have got to look to the future and we have got to be positive about things.

"And I think you can see signs of that positivity by signing Naqaash. He is a quality player.

Steeped

"We have been talking to him over the winter period and I think he wanted a new challenge."

Further new signings are in the pipeline for a side that will be once again led by Jonathan Wright, another man steeped in Old Hill's history, with Javaid insisting promotion is the aim.

"We want to be in the top two next season, we want to be promoted," said Javaid.

"There are lots of things happening at the club and with Naqaash coming, certainly on the cricket side, it's going to help us build as well.

"We are refurbing the clubhouse. We are having a new bar put in, new carpets, tables, chairs, curtains and that sort of stuff.

"We have got a new committee and we are all very, very keen to develop both the cricket side and the clubhouse.

"And a local company, Homeserve from Brierley Hill, are sponsoring us again.

"There is a lot of enthusiasm and we are looking forward to the season."

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Sport

How's that? Cricket club looks to climb back up

Page 67

Leaders keep run alive after going behind

Handsworth 15 Burntwood 22
Midlands 3 West North

BURNTWOOD shared six tries with Handsworth so it was place kicks which sealed the win to keep them ahead of the pack in M3WN.

Aza Dunet landed two conversions and a penalty as the league leaders had to come from behind to keep their seven-match winning streak alive. From a quick tapped penalty the hosts' full back touched down near the left corner flag.

At the fourth time of asking, Burntwood got a line out right to level, Neil Holden crossing the line for the try. Dunet's conversion put his side two points ahead. Handsworth regained the lead within four minutes when the full back fed his right winger for a classy try.

The hosts went further ahead on 39 minutes when the full back went in again near the left corner. Burntwood reduced the deficit when a driving maul was finished off by Pat Bayliss. Dunet converted impressively from the touchline.

With the slope in their favour the visitors began the second period at a high tempo, Dunet obliging with the goal kick after the hosts conceded a penalty. The lead was extended when Lloyd Dunet scored a sweetly taken try.

Burntwood 2nds welcomed Handsworth 2nds to The Sportsway. The visitors arrived under-strength but loaned four players for the game, which went the way of Russ Palmer's men 67-37. This Saturday Burntwood are at Newcastle in the Staffs Intermediate Trophy. The 2nds are at Wednesbury 2nds.

Scholars secure a fourth league win on the trot

Chasetown 2 Spalding 0

PLAY-OFF-CHASING Chasetown chalked up their fourth consecutive league win with this victory.

A scrappy first half-hour was devoid of any clear-cut chances. Chasetown's best two were from Jack Langston and Jake Lovatt, whose shots were straight at Mike Antkowiak.

The Scholars also had two penalty appeals turned down by referee Richard Walker, both for fouls on Danny Cocks.

The home side remained the most likely to break the deadlock with Spalding's No 1 saving an Oli Hayward header in the dying embers of the first half.

Chasetown deservedly took the lead two minutes into the second half. Cocks twisted and turned to tie a Spalding defender in knots and fed Lovatt, who fired home from inside the six-yard box.

After the Lincolnshire side had a spell of more dangerous possession, Chasetown delivered a sucker blow as Langston fed Muzzy Nduna and his curling shot was misjudged by Antkowiak and squirmed under his body and crossed the line.

Racing ahead to collect Darley titles

From left, Box, Shelley and Lowe. *Picture: Tony Else*

THE region's best riders collected their trophies at the 53rd annual awards presentation for the Darley Moor Motor Cycle Road Race Club.

Among then were Burntwood's Lloyd Shelley, Keith Box of Wolverhampton and Andrew Lowe, of Stone.

More than 350 peopled attended the Moat House Hotel in Best Western Plus, Stoke on Trent. Darley spokesman Brian George said:"Each champion collected their respective awards from World Sidecar Champions Ben and Tom Birchall and multiple Stars of Darley winner and British Superbike rider, Richard Cooper."

Shelley, aged 33, ended the final round in style at the Derbyshire circuit in October. Having already claimed the Sound of Thunder and Formula 600 titles with a round to spare, he finished an overall fourth in the Stars of Darley. Lowe claimed the Jake Hingley Trophy in memory of a racer who began his career at Darley Moor in 2012 before his life was cut short following a crash at Cadwell Park two years later.

Anthony Eades and Wolverhampton passenger Keith Box claimed the sidecar title, while Dudley's Mark Cockerton finished second in the Classic 350 class, and Willenhall's McCauley Longmore third in the Formula 125 class.

SKIPPER SAVES PITMEN POINT

Stalybridge Celtic 2 Hednesford Town 2

A GOAL in second-half stoppage time from Hednesford Town captain Tom Thorley earned the Pitmen a share of the points against a Stalybridge Celtic side who had produced a late fightback of their own.

The Pitmen took the lead in the 37th minute, when a nice one-two between Joey Butlin and James Fitzgibbon saw the latter break clear into the box and fire a low effort into the far corner of the net.

Hednesford suffered two late injury blows as the half came to a close with Callam Mendez-Jones being forced off just before the break while James Lawrie was replaced at the interval.

Apart from a Jake Charles shot being blocked early on, the second half saw little in terms of goalmouth action in the opening 15 minutes.

Chance

Hednesford almost doubled their lead in the 63rd minute when Jordan Graham picked out Reece King but his bullet header flashed just wide of the upright. Three minutes later, Fitzgibbon was denied a second as his cross took a deflection and was just palmed away by Celtic goalkeeper Jack Walton on the line.

After seeing another good chance come and go, Hednesford were pegged back in the 79th minute when a cheap corner was given away and Matty Wolfenden was able to slam home from inside the six-yard box after the set-piece was nodded down.

Two minutes later the home side were in front as Hughes nipped onto a loose ball back and he found Wolfenden who doubled his tally by firing high into the net from 15 yards out. Just when it looked as if Hednesford were to be denied, the Pitmen equalised as the game ticked into stoppage time when King picked out Thorley, who managed to find the back of the net.

The Pitmen are at home to Warrington on Saturday, kick-off at 3pm.

Cool Kieran races into top 10

Hednesford's Kieran Woolley was eighth in the English Alpine Championships super-G

HEDNESFORD skier Kieran Woolley claimed a top 10 finish in the English Alpine Championships super-G as he continues to punch above his weight in the alpine world.

The 12-year-old won the giant slalom at the same championships this time last year but moved up to the under-14 category this season to compete against older boys.

The Chase Grammar School pupil, who started racing at six, finished eighth in the first super-G in Bormio, Italy, and recorded a time of 54.05 seconds. Woolley was racing against many competitors with more experience than him. The youngster is now targeting success in the slalom and giant slalom.

"My time was okay I guess but it could definitely be better," Woolley said. "This is my fifth ever super-G so I am quite pleased."

Devastated! Late break is decisive

Cannock L1s 0 Swansea 1

LADIES 1s, battling to stay in the league, fought hard for 69 minutes and matched the visitors across the pitch as both had equal opportunities to score.

But they were were left devastated when Swansea had a quick break in the final seconds of the game and despite Cannock's efforts to break down play they scored to win 1-0.

In other games, Cannock L2s shared six goals with Sutton Coldfield, with the Player of the Match award going to Laura Swinscoe; and Cannock L4s, despite having all the possession, lost 1-0 to Aldridge & Walsall after conceding a breakaway goal in the final minutes.

Cannock L5s were beaten 5-0 by Dudley 5 even though they played a rather aggressive but skilful game.

Cannock maintained a good level of teamwork, and morale stayed high despite the result. Cannock's Player of the Match went to Beccy Chapman.

Cannock M3s 2
Loughborough Students 2

The Students, who were second in the table going into this fixture, went 2-0 up but Cannock came back through Bloomer and James Griffiths.

With 10 minutes remaining, Cannock stood firm and threw everything they had behind the ball.

Cannock 3s can look back on this as one of the games of the season, taking a point from a top side who were never able to break the morale and strength of a united Cannock side.

Griff sink Hayes with late winner

Heath Hayes 1 Nuneaton Griff 2

HEATH Hayes failed to get anything from this game against an average Nuneaton side who have also been having an indifferent season.

It took Griff only seven minutes to take the lead when Lewis Commins was allowed a clear run at goal after being given the ball by a slack Hayes defence.

Hayes equalised on 30 minutes when Brad Rolston scored from a scramble, and the scores remained level at half-time.Griff took the points with a late goal from Ryan Slinn.

Despite a late rally Hayes couldn't find that elusive equaliser.

★★★

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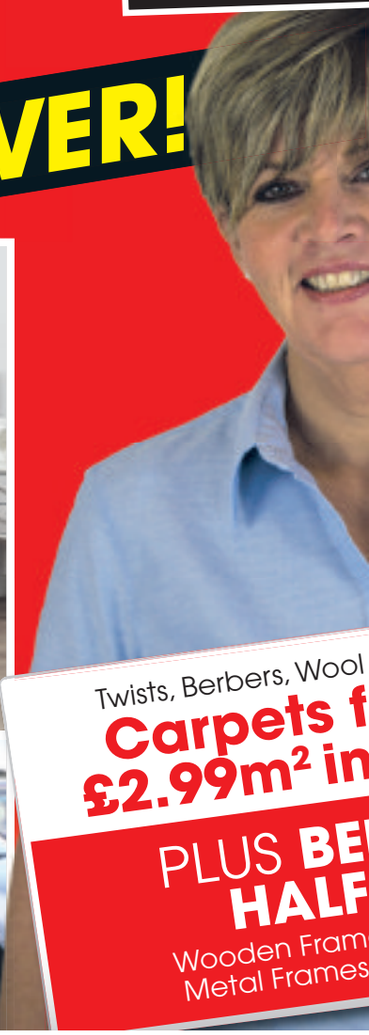

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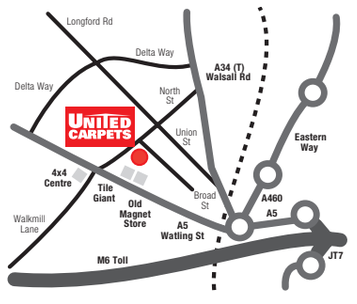

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